

THE *Country* GUIDE

Incorporating The Nor'West Farmer and Farm and Home

CANADA'S NATIONAL RURAL MONTHLY

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COVER: "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass."—Canadian Christmas scene painted by Manly Geller.

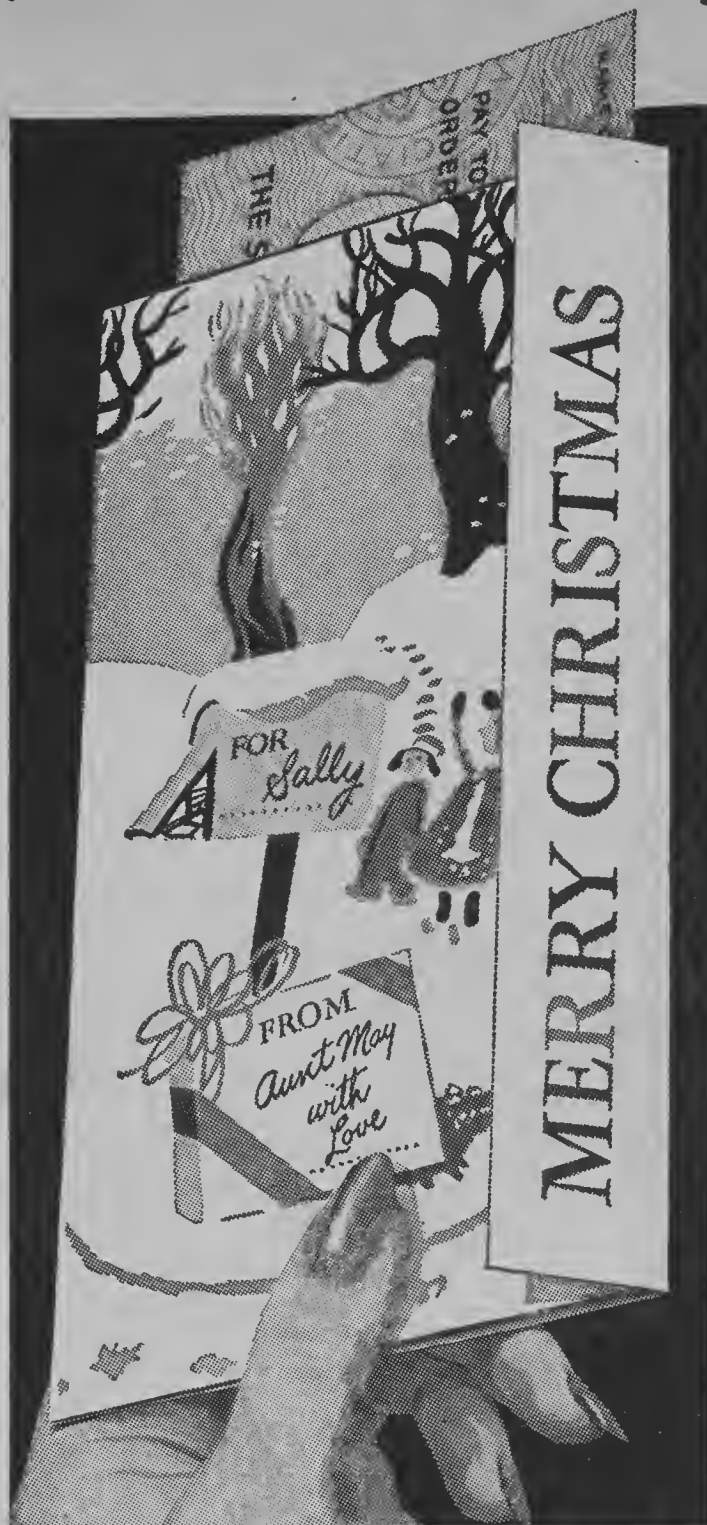
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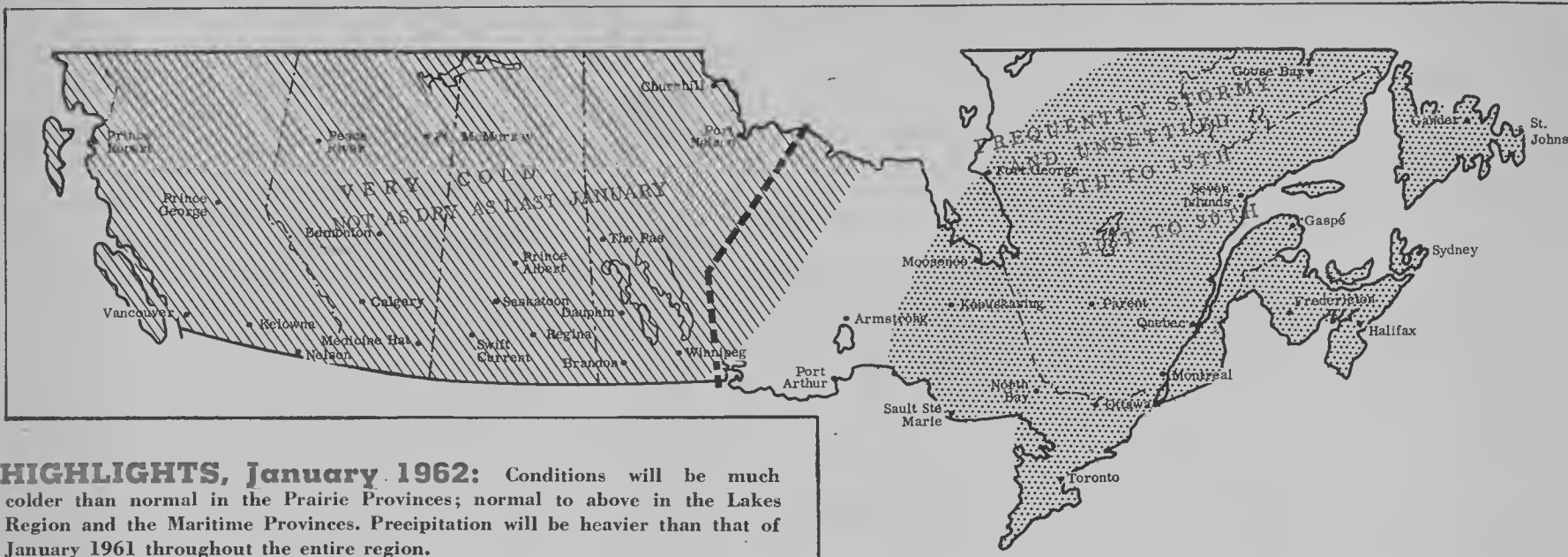
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THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

Prepared by DR. IRVING P. KRICK and Associates



HIGHLIGHTS, January 1962: Conditions will be much colder than normal in the Prairie Provinces; normal to above in the Lakes Region and the Maritime Provinces. Precipitation will be heavier than that of January 1961 throughout the entire region.

(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—ed.)

Alberta

- 1st week 1-6:** Cold weather on first day or two, warming toward mid-week. Fair skies first few days, snow likely in north around 4th and 5th, followed by brief cooling.
- 2nd week 7-13:** Arctic air will bring snow around 7th and 8th. Cold most days (—15 or lower) with brief warming near 11th and 12th, turning colder about 13th. Last half of week storm-free.
- 3rd week 14-20:** Cold first part of week, milder 16th and 18th (30s). Storminess across most sections around 17th and 18th. Chilly daytimes and cloudiness in areas just east of Rockies on 19th, improving 20th.
- 4th week 21-27:** Generally fair weather into 24th but cloudiness will increase as more cold air settles into province on 25th. There may be scattered snow with the colder air mass.
- 5th week 28-31:** Some snow, mostly in northern sections near 28th. Only minor day-to-day temperature changes expected although some warming is indicated near 30th.

Saskatchewan

- 1st week 1-6:** Scattered snow near 2nd and 5th but no major storms are indicated. It will be cold on 1st with temperatures moderating thereafter.
- 2nd week 7-13:** Some snow and colder weather (20 to 30 below zero) around 8th. Temperatures will moderate briefly after 11th before more cold air and snow move across region on week end.
- 3rd week 14-20:** Warming trend after 15th but broken by general storminess around 17th-18th. Snow expected to be widespread, followed by another influx of cold air through balance of week.
- 4th week 21-27:** Generally fair weather for first half of week, daytimes in teens and lows zero to 10 below. On 25th, more cold air will move in. Southern sections can expect snow near 25th.
- 5th week 28-31:** Skies will be threatening on 29th. Mild conditions on 30th and 31st with daytime temperatures in 15 to 25 degree range.

Manitoba

- 1st week 1-6:** Chilly conditions on 1st, followed by increasing cloudiness. Some snow on 3rd, mostly in the southern portion. Mild weather is indicated for 4th and 5th.
- 2nd week 7-13:** Mostly dry, but near 13th a storm will bring snow. Coldest weather between 8th and 10th, nighttime temperatures lower than 20 below in most areas. Some warming expected by 12th.
- 3rd week 14-20:** Cold for first day or two; another cold spell expected on 20th. Not quite so cold during middle of week, highs generally above zero. Snow widespread between 18th and 20th.
- 4th week 21-27:** Storm-free weather, with snow mostly in south on 25th. Fair and cold on 21st, 22nd, warming somewhat thereafter. More cold air will affect most areas near 26th-27th.
- 5th week 28-31:** No storminess is expected during this interval. Daytime temperatures will reach into the teens on the 30th and 31st.

Ontario

- 1st week 1-6:** Week will be highlighted by generally mild conditions, particularly between 2nd and 5th. Skies will be threatening around 3rd and 4th.
- 2nd week 7-13:** A storm will produce snow, mostly in north, on 9th and 10th. Temperatures lowering between 9th and 11th. Skies cloudy most days; locally heavy snows near Great Lakes between 11th and 13th.
- 3rd week 14-20:** Cloudy and unsettled on 14th but week will be free of any major storminess. Briefly colder weather near 15th-16th but moderating to milder levels (40s south, teens and 20s north).
- 4th week 21-27:** Frequently unsettled, especially through south. Snow indicated near 21st-22nd, threatening again 25th-26th, dropping nighttime temperatures near zero along Great Lakes, colder than 30 below in north.
- 5th week 28-31:** Crisp, cold air mass will move eastward around 29th, allowing temperatures to moderate slowly. Threat of some snow along Great Lakes about 30th.

Quebec

- 1st week 1-6:** No unusually cold weather. Daytimes in 30s and low 40s around 3rd and 4th. Some snow near 4th, followed by briefly colder conditions.
- 2nd week 7-13:** Frequent storminess this week. Snow in most sections around 8th-9th and 11th-12th. Cloudiness will restrict warming on most days, coldest weather on 10th-11th.
- 3rd week 14-20:** Skies threatening on 14th before cold air mass moves in. It will continue cold into 16th, moderating to mild levels near week end. Most days will be fair and dry.
- 4th week 21-27:** Frequently stormy, snow spreading to most sections between 21st and 23rd. Unsettled and threatening 25th, snow again near 26th. Daytime warming restricted by cloudiness after 21st, cold air 25th-26th.
- 5th week 28-31:** Colder first day or two, gradually warming by end of month. Some snow can be expected, mostly in southern areas, by 30th.

Atlantic Provinces

- 1st week 1-6:** Threatening on 1st, more important storminess expected around 5th, principally Nova Scotia. No extreme temperatures are expected during this week.
- 2nd week 7-13:** Mild first half of week, daytimes in 30s and 40s most places, 50s on coast. Showers and snow near 9th and 10th. Much colder weather will follow. Storminess about 12th-13th.
- 3rd week 14-20:** Briefly colder on 14th and 20th, but seasonal temperatures will predominate. Threatening weather near 15th and 18th, rain expected on 19th, mostly near the coast.
- 4th week 21-27:** Fair weather during the early part of the week will be followed by general storminess between the 23rd and 25th. No unusually cold weather is indicated for the week.
- 5th week 28-31:** This interval will be free of any major storminess. Cold conditions will predominate between the 28th and 30th.

Editorials

Hurrah for Mr. Hamilton!

THE year end is a time for reflection. Like many others, we have been casting our thoughts back over the events of 1961 as well as forward into 1962. On the farm front, there is no denying the Prairie drought caused worry and hardship for a great many farm people, and the lack of moisture this fall has dimmed the outlook for the New Year. But setting the drought problem aside for the time being, it should be recognized that there have been a number of positive steps forward and several important breakthroughs in the field of farm policy in the past year.

Since the Federal Government's role in farm policy is a dominant one, it is natural to relate what has taken place to the agricultural portfolio. The Hon. Alvin Hamilton has held this post in the Federal Cabinet for just over a year now. To our way of thinking, he is proving to be an excellent Minister of Agriculture.

The wheat surplus was the number one problem in Canadian agriculture a year ago. Mr. Hamilton was quick to focus his energies on what could be done about it. He found that if major increases in sales were to take place, a substantial line of credit was needed. He was able to persuade his Cabinet colleagues to authorize \$175 million for this purpose, something none of his predecessors had been able to do. This action, combined with the fine work of the Canadian Wheat Board and the grain trade, swelled wheat and flour exports to 354 million bushels in the 1960-61 crop year—the fourth highest on record. With the sharply reduced crop this year due to the drought, the wheat supplies that remain are a considerable asset. Moreover, the principle of sales on credit has been firmly established, and prices of wheat have risen due to reduced supplies and the devaluation of the Canadian dollar.

When it became apparent in the summer that the severity of the Prairie drought endangered the livestock industry, Mr. Hamilton, working in co-operation with the provincial ministers of agriculture in the region, took prompt action to provide emergency assistance. Such action prevented wholesale dumping of cattle and a break in prices. It allowed farmers to retain their basic herds and provided substantially increased returns to beef producers over what they would otherwise have been.

PRIOR to assuming the agricultural ministry, Mr. Hamilton was Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. In this capacity he did much of the initial work and planning for the highly successful "Resources for Tomorrow" Conference held in October and which was reported and commented upon in our November issue. Closely allied to this event is the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act which Mr. Hamilton piloted through the House of Commons during the second quarter of the year, with the support of all political parties. He has been busy since in consultation with his provincial counterparts in an endeavor to get the ARDA program underway. Both the Resources Conference and ARDA are major firsts. They have far reaching implications for the betterment of Canada as a whole, and for rural Canada in particular.

In the field of research, the new Minister has thrown his weight behind a proposal for the establishment of an independent and much needed Agricultural Economics Research Council. It is expected now that this organization

will be formed in 1962 with part of the financial backing provided by the Government.

On the international scene, Mr. Hamilton has not been idle. Recently he returned from meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development to which Canada belongs. The Minister took a leading part in these events. Since his efforts in this regard are described in a report of the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference on page 6, we need only say here that FAO has approved of an essentially Canadian proposal for the establishment of a World Food Bank. For some 15 years this idea of a multilateral world food program has been talked about, but to little avail. Now it has excellent prospects of becoming a reality. It strikes us that it is more than just a coincidence this happened in Mr. Hamilton's first year as Minister.

THERE are other significant accomplishments to the Minister's credit. He has made a special effort to explain the problems of agriculture to the consuming public in order to gain understanding and support for needed agricultural policies. He has launched an effective publicity campaign on his departmental programs to ensure that farm people will be fully familiar with how to make the best of the opportunities and assistance they provide. He is convinced that crop insurance is needed and must be made feasible for a much larger number of farmers, and to this end he hopes to be able to get the support of the Government to improve the basis of Federal participation. As our report on the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference indicates, he and the provincial ministers of agriculture are anticipating problems and making plans to minimize them.

This is quite a record of performance to establish in a single year. But it doesn't end here. As important as these accomplishments are, they may be only signs of better things to come. From recent pronouncements, it is evident the Minister is convinced that three things must happen if further significant progress is to be made in solving our agricultural problems. First, the Canada Department of Agriculture must change its emphasis from the production or supply side to the demand side of the market. Second, ways must be found for the Federal Government to work in greater harmony and co-operation with the provinces on agricultural programs. Third, agriculture must work in greater co-operation with the other resource industries in Canada. Each of these three approaches are commendable.

Obviously, Mr. Hamilton hasn't been able to make the progress that has been achieved all by himself. He has been assisted and supported by his own advisors and departmental staff, and by a co-operative attitude in most if not all of the provinces. He would be the first to admit he does not possess any magic wand which will make agriculture prosperous overnight. A great many things remain to be done. However, his willingness to act on any valid complaint or promising proposal, his boundless energy and enthusiasm, his sound philosophy and imaginative approach to the problems of today and tomorrow, are not only commendable characteristics, but provide hope for agriculture that has been sadly lacking in recent years. May his efforts in 1962 be as rewarding for agriculture as they have been in the year that is about to close. V

Trade Policy Needed

FOR the past 6 months it has been impossible to read a newspaper or magazine, listen to a news broadcast, or spend an evening with friends or at a public meeting, without encountering a reference to Canada's trade policy, or lack of it. The success of the European Common Market, Britain's decision to apply for full membership in it, and the reaction of the United States Government to these developments has the nation deeply aroused and the Canadian Government confused. Unfortunately, Canada, the fourth largest trading nation in the world, is acting like a frightened child caught in the middle of a whirlpool, with not the slightest idea of how to cope with the situation.

Before we are accused of being partisan in this matter, we should like to quote from a recent editorial appearing in a traditionally Tory newspaper. On November 18, The Toronto Globe and Mail had this to say: "It is time the Canadian Government undertook a positive approach to the Common Market, worthy of past Canadian traditions of leadership in Commonwealth and international affairs. For reasons which seemed to display pique rather than diplomacy, the Government from the very inception of the European Common Market has indulged in the futile exercise of opposing an irresistible force. The result has been to make Canada appear ridiculous rather than wise, a nation anxious to live in the past rather than one eager to mold the future."

The position the Canadian Government has taken is in sharp contrast to that of the United States Administration. President Kennedy has given his blessing to the unification of the British and European economies, even in the knowledge that this will likely restrict American sales to Europe in the short run. Moreover, he instituted secret negotiations with the Common Market to reduce tariffs on certain industrial goods by some 20 per cent. If successful, such reductions will apply to all member nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, including Canada. Finally, he has decided to ask the U.S. Congress for sweeping new powers in the trade field, including the right to negotiate tariff reductions across the board on large bundles of products. The main motives behind these moves is to do everything possible to prevent economic warfare from developing between the Atlantic family of nations, and to offset any tendency on the part of the Common Market to become protective and inward looking in its trade policies. Mr. Kennedy believes if either of these things happened, they could strike a fatal blow at the Free World in its struggle with the Iron Curtain countries.

Obviously Canada has a gigantic stake in what is taking place. However, it seems to us the senior members of the Federal Cabinet have been acting as though this country had a big stick with which it could beat other nations into line in maintaining the status quo in world trading relationships. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, in recent years, the Government has been busy dreaming up ways of becoming more protectionist when it seemed politically convenient to do so. This is hardly a stance from which to protest about what other countries are doing to develop the Free World economy.

The fact of the matter is that great changes are in the trade winds. Old trading alignments, agreements and institutions are rapidly becoming outdated. Canada had better pull up its socks quickly if it has any intention of remaining a leading trading nation. If we wait too long to make up our mind what to do about our trade policy, the decisions will be made for us by other countries who won't wait. We could start immediately by consulting with both the Common Market Commission and the United States Government in the hope of opening negotiations with respect to our future trade. V

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Our Readers

Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference comes face to face with

NEED TO CO-OPERATE IN FARM POLICY

by LORNE HURD

IF there was one outstanding fact which was brought more into focus than any other at the annual Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference held in Ottawa November 21, it was the need for a high degree of co-operation if further inroads are to be made into resolving Canada's farm problems. This co-operative spirit must prevail between the Federal and each of the provincial governments; between the various provinces; between farm organizations and governments at all levels; and, between Canada and other countries.

The Hon. Alvin Hamilton, the Federal Minister of Agriculture who acted as Conference Chairman, brought this home in his review of federal agricultural policy when he said "the only true solution to the problems of agriculture is to be honest with ourselves and with our farmers, and secondly, that we have to work in co-operation within our country and internationally."

As is customary, the Conference was attended by the federal and provincial ministers of agriculture, their deputies and senior officials, as well as by representatives of Canada's two national farm organizations—the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the National Farmers Union. It was convened to hear and comment on the report of the Agricultural Outlook Meeting held the previous day; and to review, propose and discuss farm policy in all or any of its various aspects. Outlook report highlights are contained in an article commencing on page 11 of this issue. What follows is a report on the day's policy deliberations.

Dairy Policy

The number one concern of delegates at the Conference was what to do about Canada's growing dairy problems. They were set out by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in these terms: (1) Returns to milk producers are low and can stand little, if any, reduction; (2) the present decline in butter consumption and the accumulation of government stocks must be corrected; and (3) disastrously low prices for solids-not-fat of milk going into skim milk powder cannot be tolerated any longer.

While long-term solutions to the dairy problem are being sought, the CFA urged early enactment of new dairy policy proposals made by the Dairy Farmers of Canada. These were briefly: (a) A 14¢ per lb. consumer subsidy on butter in order to increase consumption; (b) a 12¢ per lb. support price for skim milk powder; (c) a thorough overhaul of fluid milk quota systems in order to reduce surplus production; (d) a limitation of supports on manufacturing milk to the 1961 level of production; (e) a 50¢ per lb. support price on butter with a deficiency payment to cream producers of 14¢ per lb. in 1961-62, and a possible 2¢ reduction in this payment for 1962-63; and (f) an annual review of the policy.

The National Farmers Union took ardent exception to the proposal that there be any reduction in the butterfat price support. "Our concern," the NFU brief stated, "is compounded by the

knowledge that 75 per cent of the production of creamery butter in Canada comes as a result of cream gathered directly from small producers who depend upon cream returns to provide them with a good part of their living costs. We do not believe that these people can afford to accept a lower price . . . either now or in the future."

The Federal Minister acknowledged the serious nature of the problem, and admitted price support policies are in some measure responsible for the butter surplus. During the year, Mr. Hamilton said, discussions had taken place leading up to what he hoped would result in action programs with the provinces, the dairy organizations, and the Federal Government working together to provide an answer, namely, a national dairy policy.

In the Conference discussion period, the Minister also stated that the dairy surpluses were obviously getting worse. He frankly admitted the Federal Cabinet was becoming impatient with him to deal with the matter. Action, he promised, would not be long in coming.

Farm Organizations' Requests

While the two major farm organizations clashed over dairy policy, they were on common ground in their proposals on several other matters.

Both the CFA and the NFU expressed deep concern over the fact that the agricultural outlook is for a continuation of lagging returns to farmers and gradually rising production costs. This situation, which has persisted for years, remained an ever present challenge to policy makers.

The two organizations pressed the Federal Government to make supplementary acreage payments at the earliest opportunity to western farmers, on the same basis as in 1958 and 1960.

They welcomed and expressed appreciation for the initiative taken by the Canadian Government in the United Nations and FAO toward the establishment of a World Food Bank.

With regard to the Government's Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, known as ARDA, the farm organizations' representatives showed impatience with the delay in getting underway with this program.

In this regard, the CFA came up with these suggestions as to steps that need to be taken right away:

- The preparation of a statement of principles upon which Federal participation in the financing of ARDA projects may be conducted.

- The establishment of a Federal advisory body under the Act, and the initiation of active consultation and study by board members with the assistance of an effective secretariat.

- The early formulation and publication of definite, yet flexible procedures under which ARDA projects may be proposed, discussed, negotiated and reviewed.

- The early appropriation of initial Federal funds for the ARDA program.

In the field of crop insurance, farm spokesmen told the Conference of their concern and disappointment at the very limited extent to which

enabling legislation has been passed in the provinces with a view to taking advantage of the Federal program. The CFA said this is a matter to which producer organizations and governments should give immediate attention.

Both farm organizations made reference to the development of the European Common Market and Britain's possible membership in it.

The CFA recognized that the agricultural policies of the Six could take a protectionist turn to the jeopardy of Canadian farm exports. However, it believed that Canada should fully acknowledge the rightness of the Common Market concept, and lend its energies, through consultation, agreement and enlightened trade policy, toward turning to our benefit the trade potential of an economically united, and expanding Europe.

Commenting specifically on the question of Britain joining the Common Market, the CFA said Canada's basic attitude should be one of support, in the belief that it should be possible to protect the legitimate interests of agricultural producers and others in Canada by constructive negotiation.

The NFU restated its belief that the Canadian Government should give more serious consideration to the possibilities of Canada becoming a partner in an Atlantic Free Trade Area.

Statements presented by the farm organizations also contained support for the establishment of an organization to do effective, independent research into the economic and social problems of agriculture as proposed at the Winnipeg Conference on Farm Policy Research held in April of this year. Governments at all levels were urged to give this need serious consideration.

International Programs

In recognition of the fact that Canada cannot solve its agricultural problems entirely within its own borders, the Conference turned its attention to the international scene for part of the day. Mr. Hamilton, and his Parliamentary Assistant, W. H. Jorgenson, reported at some length on recent meetings they had participated in along with other Canadians.

Of the many subjects discussed at the international meetings, two in particular stand out; namely, the development of a World Food Bank, and the possible formation of a rule of law for commercial trade in agricultural commodities entering into international competition.

The Conference was told that Canadians played a leading role at the FAO meeting in Rome in persuading other countries that the World Food Bank idea was not only highly desirable but workable, if adequate safeguards were introduced to protect the interests of the countries participating in such a plan.

The Canadian proposal for the World Food Bank, which was eventually placed before the FAO meeting, was simply that a very modest approach should be taken to get it started. It envisaged that as many countries as possible should be associated with it on a multilateral basis.

(Continued on facing page)

The first part of the Food Bank program should concentrate on meeting emergency relief, such as famine, floods and drought. Later on there should be experimental efforts to try and raise the nutritional levels of needy countries, as well as pilot projects of agricultural development in various parts of the world. It was suggested that the initial objective of the Food Bank be set at \$100 million, and that contributions could be made in desired commodities, cash funds or services.

In speaking to the proposal at the FAO meeting, Mr. Hamilton emphasized that this was not just an effort on the part of the surplus-producing nations to collect money from other countries and rid themselves of their surplus. Rather, it was a humanitarian program designed to meet the real needs of the recipient nations. To make certain other countries recognize the truth of this statement, Mr. Hamilton announced that the Canadian Government was prepared to provide at least one-third of its contribution in cash.

(Since the Ottawa Conference concluded, it has been announced that FAO has approved the World Food Bank proposal. Canadian initiative and effort have been rewarded.)

The rule of law idea for agricultural commodity trade was first raised by Mr. Hamilton at a meeting of the Agricultural Ministers of the 20 countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, an essentially European organization in which Canada and U.S.A. have recently become full members. In presenting the idea, the Federal Minister argued that all industrial nations were becoming more aggressive in seeking out new export markets. If such nations adopted export subsidy policies, as some had already done, there would be a great "rat-race" of competition which would bring ruin to taxpayers and farmers in the countries adopting such action. Mr. Hamilton suggested that as an alternative, a formula be sought that would give to the various commodities in the export markets of the world the same rule of law as we have under the International Wheat Agreement. Mr. Hamilton reported that the O.E.C.D. has taken this suggestion under advisement.

Future Domestic Policy

Lest anyone get the idea that the Federal Minister has been so busy with international considerations that he has been neglecting domestic questions, we hasten to assure you this is not the case. His opening address to the Conference indicated clearly that he was alert to the problems of the day. Some of the Minister's more significant statements may be summarized as follows:

- Mr. Hamilton announced that the search would be continued for new types of products more suitable for tropical countries where there is a rising potential market. He pointed out that the Department of Agriculture had already patented a Canadian formula for the production of instant potatoes, and has produced a dozen new foods using potatoes, fish, turnips, chicken and beef in instant form, that are soon to be patented. He hopes commercial con-

cerns in Canada will produce them for domestic and export use.

- He suggested that for the next few years consideration will have to be given to the task of encouraging increased beef production in Canada. He predicted that in the next 15 years Canada will need between 6 million and 7 million additional cattle to meet market demands. Associated with this, of course, is the need to develop more grass and pasture lands, and related policies.

- The Minister indicated that Western farmers through their organization, the Canadian Wheat Board, need to take a more active part in marketing feed grains in Eastern Canada. To meet this situation in part, he intends to set up a liaison board representing Eastern co-operatives and private companies handling feed grain.

- Mr. Hamilton has no intention of waiting on the outcome of the "Resources for Tomorrow" conference (reported in the November Country Guide) before getting the ARDA program under way. He believes we know enough about the opportunities that exist to move at once in the field of agriculture.

- He is convinced that a firm and continual attack on the problems of the marginal and sub-marginal farmer is required. In this connection he emphasized, however, that there is no solution for such farmers "if we continue to look purely in the field of traditional agriculture." It is only by looking at all the demand factors associated with the land and other resources to which such people have access that solutions can be found, Mr. Hamilton said.

Co-operation

The Conference was also advised of progress in federal-provincial co-operation that had been made at a meeting of the ministers of agriculture the previous day.

Favorable consideration had been given by the ministers to the development of an Agricultural Economic Research Council to fill the gap in market research and rural sociology. However, it was still too early to make a formal announcement regarding the nature of the organization, and the scope of research activities.

The agricultural ministers had discussed the desirability of developing a forage bank program to ensure reserve supplies, and had turned the matter over to a committee of officials to work out a program.

The ministers had agreed that there was an obvious need to provide the livestock industry with more veterinary help, and they were exploring ways of accomplishing this, as well as the possibilities of establishing a new veterinary college.

The agricultural ministers had also reviewed the Emergency Measures Organization for Canada, and the steps that needed to be taken in the departments of agriculture to meet their responsibilities in the event of a nuclear attack.

The ARDA program also came in for long consideration in the private talks. The Conference was informed it was the expectation of the ministers' meeting that at least one agreement with each province would be signed within the next few months. ✓

GUIDE POSTS

UP-TO-DATE
FARM MARKET
FORECASTS

DON'T COUNT ON PRESENT DURUM WHEAT PRICES to continue next year. This has been a good money maker with per bushel returns nearly double those of last season's, largely off-setting low yield per acre. It is unlikely that a severe world shortage will occur two years in a row.

HOG PRICES will likely be somewhat below this year's for the first half of 1962, as marketings are expected to be larger. Situation could improve by fall.

OAT MARKETINGS have been a little heavier than anticipated, thanks to a better-than-expected outturn in Alberta. This province has most of this year's small marketable supplies.

MUSTARD SEED PRICES have been exceptionally high this fall due to short crops of past two seasons. However, market for this crop is still quite limited and a good crop would drive prices down quickly.

POULTRY CONSUMPTION is setting another record in Canada as housewives seek out both broiler and turkey bargains. From producers' viewpoint, more efficient feeding practices have not offset the low prices, and the losses have been substantial.

CANADIAN BARLEY should be pretty well used up by next summer. Carryover stocks, which were quite large in some areas, have been coming to market quite steadily, but marketings are now starting to drop well below those of last year.

FLAXSEED CROP is now moving freely into export markets but prices are lower, reflecting improved prospects for Argentine crop. Present price levels should hold during winter and early spring, when prospects for new crop could swing them either way.

MILK OUTPUT is expected to increase again this year. While total fluid sales will likely increase, amount used per person may decline slightly. Most of surplus is likely to again end up in Government butter stockpiles.

RAPESEED MARKETINGS have been heavy, with bulk of crop already through elevators. Unfortunately, crop is a little over-priced and our overseas shipments are painfully slow.

MORE CORN than ever is being used in Canada this year. Large imports from U.S. are being used as a substitute for relatively high priced Canadian oats and barley. Prices will likely remain relatively low during winter.

FODDER SITUATION across Canada varies from excellent in Ontario to just adequate in Saskatchewan. Western farmers did an excellent job of gathering supplies, thus preventing much forced marketing of cattle.



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Special Reports

Weed Conference Revises Wild Oat Treatments

THE wild oat control chemicals, Avadex and Carbyne, have again figured prominently in the recommendations of the National Weed Committee, Western Section.

AVADEX. This chemical is generally used as a pre-planting treatment. It is applied as a spray and disced thoroughly into the soil. However, in tests on wheat at Lacombe Experimental Farm, Alta., the best results were obtained by seeding the grain first, then spraying the soil with Avadex and harrowing the surface over twice.

Another effective method was to spray, disc the chemical into the soil about 2" deep, and then drill the seed down to a depth of 2½"-3". Under no conditions must the seed be placed in the treated soil layers or a heavy loss of plants will result. However, a lot more test data will be required before Avadex can be recommended for use on wheat.

Recommendations

Barley: Avadex is recommended as a *post-seeding* application to fields seeded to barley at rates of 1¼ to 1½ lb. per acre. Seeding the crop to a depth of 3" and subsequent incorporation of the chemical to a depth of 2" will minimize crop damage. The herbicide should be applied in 5 gallons or more of water at 30 p.s.i. not later than 3 days after seeding, and should be incorporated immediately following application. The higher rate will give better wild oat control but may cause some reduction in stand.

Flax: Avadex to be applied at 1½-2 lb. per acre in 5 gallons of water at 30 p.s.i. pressure and worked in the same day to a depth of 3" with a disc-type machine. The higher rate is recommended for heavier soils or where wild oat infestation is heavy.

Field and Canning Peas: Avadex to be applied at 1½ lb. per acre as a preplanting application and disced well into the soil.

Rapeseed, Sugar Beets, Sunflowers, Mustard: Avadex to be applied at 1½-2 lb. per acre as a preplanting application, disced well into soil.

For Trial Use Only

Field and Sweet Corn: Avadex to be applied at 1½-2 lb. per acre as a preplanting application and disced well into the soil. The lower quantity to be used on corn.

CARBYNE. This chemical is used as a post-emergence treatment for wheat, barley and flax. It is applied as a spray to the growing crop. The degree of control depends on a uniform emergence of the wild oat. Both rapeseed and flax have been removed from the "trial" category for Carbyne this year.

Recommendations

Wheat, Barley, Flax and Rapeseed: To be applied at 4 to 6 oz. of Carbyne to 5 gallons of water at 45 p.s.i. pressure. Spray when the majority of the wild oats are in the

2-leaf stage. Flax is susceptible to injury if sprayed in the early stages of leaf formation, and again in the 14-leaf stage. If the right growth stage of the weed doesn't coincide with the 6- to 8-leaf stage of the flax, it would be best not to spray at all, Lacombe researchers state.

Field and Canning Peas: Carbyne to be applied at 4 to 6 oz. per acre when the weed is in the 2-leaf stage.

Sugar Beets: Carbyne to be applied at 6 to 8 oz. per acre when the weed is in the 2-leaf stage.

Mustard: Carbyne to be applied at 4 to 6 oz. per acre when the weed is in the 2-leaf stage.

Sunflowers: Carbyne to be applied at 4 to 6 oz. per acre when the weed is in the 2-leaf stage.—C.V.F. V

New Minister Faces Marketing Problems



Hon. Wm. A. Stewart

A 46-YEAR-OLD beef and swine farmer has become Ontario's new minister of agriculture. Hon. William A. Stewart has been named to succeed the Hon. W. A. Goodfellow.

Mr. Stewart, who operates a 250-acre farm at Denfield in Middlesex County, has been a long-time supporter of farm organizations. He served as director of his county federation of agriculture for 15 years, one of them as president, before being elected to the Legislature in 1957. He also served on the high school board of his district for 10 years, one of them as chairman, and is a former member of the local township planning board.

Since being elected to the Legislature, Mr. Stewart has served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee of that body, as well as chairman of a committee of the Legislature to consider crop insurance.

Most controversial problems facing the new minister involve the marketing of some of the province's main farm products. Dairy farmer leaders are searching for a way to come together in a single milk marketing organization. Poultry producers are also trying to devise an egg marketing system based on the successful teletype system used for hogs. V

Impact of the Drought

Analysis of the 1961 prairie drought brings home important lessons, and reveals policy gaps that need to be filled

by J. C. GILSON

*Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Manitoba*

AT one time during this past summer it appeared almost certain that the long, dry spell would end in a widespread economic disaster for farmers in the Prairie Provinces. For nearly 2 months the almost complete lack of rain and the searing temperatures reminded old-timers of the crippling drought which struck the prairies during the 1930's.

The count down had actually begun in many parts of the Prairie Provinces when the long-sought rains began to fall. For many families the rain came too late—they had already lost their crops. For thousands of farmers, however, there would be a crop, albeit a much reduced one.

The most recent statistics suggested a wheat crop for the Prairie Provinces of about half that harvested in 1960. Farmers in Saskatchewan, the province hardest hit by the drought, harvested a wheat crop estimated at 124 million bushels as compared with the 1960 crop of 808 million bushels. In Manitoba farmers harvested a wheat crop of approximately half that of 1960. The

wheat crop in Alberta amounted to about 80 per cent of that harvested in the preceding year.

The impact of the reduced crop yields will not be fully felt until the first 5 months of 1962. At that time it is anticipated that the reduction in farm income, and the consequent tightening of short-term credit, will present some difficulty to many prairie farmers in financing their spring operations. It is expected also that many livestock producers will be pressed during the early part of the spring to stretch out their limited fodder supplies. It seems likely that many businessmen, who depend on agriculture for their operations, will also feel the pinch to some degree.

Fortunately, part of the sting will be taken out of the drought by an estimated payment of \$60 million under the PFAA. This will be the highest payment since the inception of the program in 1939. In Manitoba, farmers in the crop insurance program will probably collect over \$1 million in indemnities. Many livestock producers will receive some aid in terms of transportation assistance on the movement of forage, haying equipment and livestock. It should be noted also that the short crop, along with the higher grades, will be reflected in appreciably higher grain prices for the current crop year. In addition, there have been indications that the Federal Government may make some type of additional payments to prairie farmers along the line of the acreage payments made in 1958 and 1960. Finally, the higher livestock prices this year will offset, to some degree, the effect of the reduced crop yields.

It is always tempting to look back on a situation and to suggest what we ought to have done. The drought is no exception. However, in view of the possibility of another dry year it would be wise to assess our position at this time. Accordingly, what conclusions may be drawn from the past year?

Lessons Learned

Firstly, we appear to have forgotten that the "normal" condition on the prairies is basically one of unpredictable instability. A year like the present one should come as no great surprise. It has happened many times before. It can happen again. We agree with this statement that Prime Minister Diefenbaker made to the House of Commons in 1958: "The most outstanding characteristic of the prairie farm income situation since the opening of the Prairie Provinces has been the variability of income."

Secondly, many have insisted during this past decade that we would never again be exposed to the repercussions of the severity of those experienced during the drought of the 1930's—that technological developments and improved farming practices would prevent this from happening. It may come as a surprise to note that our crop yields this year are the lowest that we have had since 1937. It apparently can happen again!

Thirdly, the great dependence on the cash crop economy in the prairies leaves farmers and businessmen, alike, very vulnerable to the loss of one crop. This is particularly so in view of the high cash investment that farmers now have in their production operations. It is frightening to think what the situation might be like if we were to be confronted with several, consecutive years of drought of the dimensions that occurred this year.

Fourthly, diversification of the prairie agricultural economy through livestock production is no guarantee by itself of a defense against the incidence of a widespread drought. We have seen this year that hay and pasture crops are every bit as susceptible to the adverse effects of a prolonged drought as cash crops. In fact, the main fear this past summer involved the possibility of a widespread hay shortage and serious loss if the basic herd had to be reduced.

Finally, we do not appear to be very well prepared for the incidence of a widespread or prolonged drought—a natural and periodic hazard of the prairies. Too many farmers apparently live from year to year insofar as their cash and credit position, and their feed reserves, are concerned. Admittedly, many of these farmers, for various reasons, have little choice. As we will indicate later, however, farmers need to make a greater attempt to reconcile their farming operations with the fact that crop yield instability is the normal situation. Precautions taken to cope with crop yield instability should be considered as part of the normal cost of operating a farm on the prairies.

Governments, too, have an important role to play, particularly when a widespread crisis occurs. The Federal and provincial governments have developed several, very important policies to deal with crop yield instability. These will be discussed below. It was apparent this year, however, that there are still many gaps to be closed. Some of these deficiencies have been realized and steps are now being taken to be better prepared in the event of a repetition of the current year.

If we glance back over the history of agriculture in Western Canada we can have no doubt of the unpredictable mood of Mother Nature. Drought struck suddenly and rudely during the 1930's. No one guessed in 1930 that it would be 9 years later before crop conditions returned to "normal." Who would have predicted that it was possible to move from an average wheat yield in Saskatchewan of only 2.6 bushels per acre in 1937, a complete disaster, to an average yield of 24.7 bushels per acre in 1942, one of the largest wheat crops in our history. And surely no one will argue that instability has been any less severe during the last decade. The average net income per farm in Saskatchewan, for example, tumbled from a high of \$4,361 in 1953 to \$1,315 in 1954. Low net income was repeated in 1957, and again, of course, in 1961.

(Please turn to next page)

WHAT 1961 SHOWED

- Instability of crop yield is a normal condition on the Prairies.
- Technological improvements and better farming practices cannot prevent exposure to a drought as severe as that experienced in the 1930's.
- Dependence on the cash crop economy leaves farmers and businessmen vulnerable to the loss of one crop.
- Diversification through livestock production, by itself, is no guaranteed defense. Hay and pastures are as susceptible to drought as cash crops are.
- Too many farmers appear to live from year to year, as far as cash, credit, and feed reserves are concerned.

WHAT COULD BE DONE

- ✓ Considerable research is needed in methods of storing and transporting forage.
- ✓ Farmers should examine actions that can be taken on their farms to hedge against another year of drought.
- ✓ Action is needed on crop insurance.
- ✓ The co-operation and resources of the Federal and provincial governments will be required in establishing a comprehensive forage bank policy.
- ✓ The time has come for study and appraisal of the uses being made of water resources in the Prairie region.

Impact of the Drought

(Continued from preceding page)

The basic problem—perhaps the most important problem—in the Prairie Provinces in the long run is not low yields, but rather, the unpredictable and disconcerting manner in which low yields alternate with high yields.

The blunt fact appears to be that we must find better ways of using the good years to carry us over the poor years insofar as crop yields are concerned. To argue that this cannot be done is to argue that the agricultural industry in the Prairie Provinces is not solvent in the long run. It is difficult to accept any such conclusion.

We know that a severe drought over a prolonged period can bankrupt those without adequate reserves. We know that this did happen during the 1930's. But it is hard to believe that the agricultural industry in the Prairies did not pay its bills over the last 30 years. It is really a matter of learning how to live with the unpredictable instability; of finding better ways of "rolling with the punch."

Existing Measures

Measures taken to cope with drought in the Prairie Provinces have been of two broad types: those that might be referred to as salvaging operations or steps taken after the drought occurred. And those measures taken in anticipation of a drought which we will call protective actions.

The salvage type of program was by far the most important during the 1930's. For example, between 1931 and 1937 total relief expenditures for the three Prairie Provinces amounted to \$283 million, of which \$100 million was contributed by the Federal Government. In addition, private lenders, provincial governments, as well as rural municipalities, wrote off millions of dollars in terms of bad debts, delinquent taxes and other relief claims.

The lessons of the thirties stressed the importance of the protective type of program.

PFAA. One of the most important policies designed to deal with problems arising from crop yield instability was the PFAA legislation passed in 1939. Under this program the 1 per cent levy on grain sales for the period 1939 to 1960 amounted to approximately \$120 million, while the total payments to farmers amounted to approximately \$248 million. It is interesting to note that the estimated \$60 million payment this year will constitute about 20 per cent of the total payments since 1939.

PFRA. The legislation passed in 1935 establishing the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act has also made a very tangible contribution to the alleviation of the effects of drought. Between 1935 and 1960, \$73 million was spent under the PFRA for the construction of farm dug-outs, community water ponds, large and small irrigation projects, community pastures, the encouragement of better tillage practices, and the gradual retirement of land classed as submarginal for crop production. Very substantial expenditures will be made in the years ahead in connection with the South Saskatchewan River Dam project.

Crop Insurance. In 1959 the Federal Government passed legislation providing for co-operation with the provincial governments in the establishment of crop insurance. During the same year the Province of Manitoba passed complementary legislation providing for the establishment of "crop insurance test areas." In 1960 crop insurance legislation was also passed in Saskatchewan.

The crop insurance program became operative in Manitoba in 1960. Approximately 2,500 farmers

were involved during the first year and around \$91,000 was paid out as indemnities. The Manitoba program was expanded in 1961 to include approximately 3,700 farmers. It is expected to make indemnity payments of over \$1 million this year. The Saskatchewan program involved close to 200 farmers in 1961. Indications are that a large proportion of these farmers will receive substantial indemnities for the current year.

Farm Credit. Another important recognition of the instability of prairie agriculture is shown in part of the Federal Credit Act. This legislation permits borrowers the opportunity of repaying their loans on the basis of a share of their annual crops, rather than by the fixed annual payments required in the past. Of course, a similar provision has been established under the V.L.A. for a number of years.

Forage Bank. Another important program that has been proposed for the prairies is the forage bank policy. In 1958 Prime Minister Diefenbaker announced that: "In recognition of the recurring hazard of drought to the stability of livestock production in the Prairie Provinces, the government has taken steps to provide assistance to provincial governments, which have the prime responsibility for meeting the needs of feed deficit areas, and is giving sympathetic study to the establishment, under provincial administration, but with federal assistance, of a forage bank program under which farmers will receive certain incentives to put up forage as a reserve against an emergency situation."

To date the protective type of action anticipated for the forage bank program has not developed. However, several emergency measures referred to as Forage Bank Policy were taken in the fall of 1959 when an early snow prevented the completion of harvesting operations. These measures were again resorted to in the current year and used in the following manner: (1) fodder bank bonus, with the Federal and provincial governments co-operating, of \$5 per ton if grain was cut for fodder in the drought areas; (2) assistance with freight costs of shipping emergency fodder to drought areas; (3) assistance with freight costs on haying equipment.

Other measures closely connected with these measures included: (1) assistance to farmers in filling farm dug-outs with water; (2) declaring farmers' yields, where they cut their grain for fodder, to be zero for purposes of calculating eligibility for PFAA payments.

We have indicated the various policies and programs that have been developed during and since the 1930's to deal with drought in the Prairies. The experience this year, however, has pointed out some gaps in our defense against drought, particularly over a prolonged period.

Filling the Gaps

First of all, can we be satisfied that everything possible is being done on the individual farm to cope with the possibility of periodic drought? We think not. One problem that deserves immediate attention is the matter of feed reserves for livestock. We have no way of knowing how many farmers make it a practice to carry over at least 1 year's feed supply in their inventory. The experience this year indicates that many do not.

We have heard two arguments advanced as reasons why farmers do not carry over a reserve supply of forage: (1) that they cannot afford to have their limited cash tied up in assets that are not currently earning money; and (2) that there

is too much waste and deterioration involved where forage is kept for more than 1 year. Both of these arguments need to be examined carefully. Considerable research needs to be developed with respect to the nutritional, engineering and economic advantages and disadvantages of alternative methods of storing and transporting forage. What, for example, are the possibilities and limitations of silage, bulk hay and pelleted feeds for the livestock producer in the Prairie Provinces?

Where do farmers in Western Canada stand in terms of their cash and credit position if faced with a crop loss? Are they financially solvent beyond the loss of one crop? two crops? We would guess that many operate on a year-to-year basis.

There are countless ways in which a farmer may hedge against the possibility of a severe drought and crop loss. The measures used will vary from farm to farm depending on the financial circumstances of the individual operator. We will make no attempt here to discuss the various measures that may be used. Some immediate steps that may be considered were outlined in the September issue of *The Country Guide*. In view of the possibility that next year may also be an unfavorable one, farmers should examine the various actions that can be taken on their own farms to hedge against another year of drought.

This would also be an appropriate time to make up our minds with respect to the feasibility of crop insurance in Western Canada. During the last 35 years several royal commissions and countless studies have been set up to consider the possibility of crop insurance. To be sure there is a strong argument to proceed carefully with programs as complex as crop insurance. However, it seems to this writer that after three decades we should be able to arrive at some conclusions.

The program in Manitoba indicates that crop insurance is not only feasible, but acceptable, to a large proportion of the farmers. One of the greatest advances that we could make in terms of farm policy for the Prairie Provinces would be that of a comprehensive program of crop insurance, the cost-price squeeze notwithstanding. Such a program will require the wholehearted support of the Federal and provincial governments, and certainly farmers themselves.

We have already indicated that the individual farmer has the primary responsibility for the establishment of a more stable forage base for his livestock production. However, there are circumstances over which the individual farmer has little control, and where it will require the co-operation and resources of the Federal and provincial governments to establish a comprehensive forage bank policy.

The development of a workable forage bank program will not be an easy task as we discovered this past year. However, both the Federal and the provincial governments are convinced that the recurring hazard of drought will continually threaten the stability of the livestock industry in the Prairie Provinces unless we have an adequate fodder reserve.

It is becoming increasingly apparent in the drier regions of the Prairie Provinces that adequate water resources are absolutely essential for the stability of agriculture. There will be growing competition for the limited water resources through expanded livestock production, irrigation, industrial and town development, hydro-electric power and water recreation. It is becoming increasingly difficult to know how these limited water resources should be used from the standpoint of the general welfare of the prairie economy. Perhaps the time has come for a thoroughly comprehensive cost-benefit study and appraisal of the uses that are being made of the water resources of the prairie region.

Crop yield instability has been, and still is, the most important single problem confronting farmers in Western Canada. We can well heed the words of Joseph in the book of Genesis, "Take the fifth part of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years . . . and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine." V

FARM MARKETS

This Year and Next

Hogs Grading averaged 121,000 head per week in the first half of 1961; 16 per cent less than in the same period last year. Then gradings went to 116,000 per week in July-September quarter; 6 per cent more than in the same quarter of 1960. Prices from January to September for grade A hogs averaged \$27.52, \$4.53 higher than in 1960.

Hog marketings expected to continue higher in first quarter of 1962 and prices likely below those of early 1961. From April until late summer, markets and prices will be nearer 1961, but dropping by fall.

Cattle Numbering 12.1 million head at June 1, there were 5 per cent more cattle in Canada than at same date in 1960, mostly through increase in beef type. Commercial marketings from January to September, 1,888,000 head, went 9 per cent above same period of last year. Recorded feeder and stocker sales moved 220,000 head from January to August (175,000 in 1960). Inspected slaughter totalled 1,524,000 head, January to September, or 5 per cent better than in same period of 1960. All of increase due to Choice grade steers and heifers. Prices declined but were supported by strong U.S. demand for feeders.

Supply of finished cattle is likely to decline in first half of 1962, as smaller supplies and higher prices of grain could reduce cattle on feed in Western Canada. This will help to maintain cattle and beef prices.

Calves Commercial marketings decreased slightly in first 9 months of 1961, and inspected slaughterings were down 5 per cent from same period of 1960. Moderately larger calf crop in 1962, but marketings and slaughter will likely decline as more are kept for restocking and home feeding in West, little change in East.

Sheep Up 7 per cent in 1961 to commercial marketings of 211,000 sheep and lambs compared with January-August 1960. But numbers at June 1, 1.7 million head, were 4 per cent less than year ago. Lamb prices were moderately lower than last year's; domestic disappearance increased to 35 million lb. up to August—18 per cent above last year. Prospects for profitable lamb feeding in 1961-62 season unchanged. Decline of 2 per cent in wool production for 1961. Prices of most grades in 1961-62 will average moderately higher than 1960-61.

Dairy Products Production in excess of consumption continues, with extremely large and steadily expanding supplies of butter and skimmed milk. This year's estimated 18.9 billion lb. of milk is 500 million more than last year's record. Numbers of cows on farms up 2.3 per cent from 1960, but small drop in output per cow may be through introduction of younger cows. Upward trend should continue in 1962, putting milk production over 19 billion lb. mark.

A further slight decline in per capita fluid sales, offset by larger population, should mean net sales increase of 100 million lb. in 1962.

Fluid Milk and Cream Per capita consumption fell slightly for the sixth year in a row, but population growth offset the decline by a small amount. Total usage for the year estimated at 6.9 billion lb.; 65 million lb. more than last year's record.

Creamery Butter 1961 production estimated at a record 342 million lb. Total consumption declined by 12.8 million lb. to 275 million, while per capita consumption fell by about 1 lb. per person in past 12 months. Stocks increased sharply; year-end stocks of butter and butter oil estimated at record 201 million lb., or 67 million more than at end of 1960.

Eggs Production, similar to last year, will total about 449 million dozen for 1961, with fewer layers but apparent increase in rate of lay. Prices fell in January and February, recovered in March-June, climbed sharply in July, and for year ended September 30 made a national average of 34.7 cents, compared with 30.6 in previous year.

Little change expected in size of national laying flock for first quarter of 1962, but probably more layers in second quarter than in same period of 1961, and rate of lay should continue to rise. Egg prices will drop seasonally in early months of 1962, and export market will suffer through low prices expected in U.S. and reduced imports by Venezuela. Support price now 34 cents per dozen, and includes Grade A medium.

Chicken Broilers Registered processing plants handled 168.8 million lb. up to September 30, 22.3 per cent above same period of 1960. Liveweight prices fell to all-time low of 12 cents at London in September and October. Further increases in pro-

GET IT AT A GLANCE

duction expected, unless low prices cause cutbacks in Ontario and Quebec. If broiler producers don't contain output in reasonable bounds, chaotic condition will continue.

Turkeys Production should reach record 140 million lb. this year, 30 per cent more than in 1960. Prices somewhat lower this year than last, averaging 7 cents less per lb. liveweight in September and October. If higher per capita consumption holds up, 1961 carry-over should not greatly exceed 1960's, but lower prices could create problems for producers in 1962.

Wheat Supplies returned to billion-bushel level in 1960-61 crop year. Wheat and flour exports were 353.5 million bushels, 27 per cent above previous year; domestic use was 150.6 million, similar to 1959-60. Initial payment remained at \$1.40, basis No. 1 Northern, but Wheat Board price strengthened as drought persisted, and crop year closed out at \$1.80¼ — highest since June 1954.

Wheat crop for 1961, estimated at 260.5 million bushels, is 47 per cent below 1960 crop and smallest since 1937. Average protein is 14.2. Nearly all crop is in top three grades. Carryover plus 1961 crop makes about 783.6 million bushels; exports for 1961-62 could be 325 million bushels; carryover next July about 309 million.

Durum prices rose sharply this season to a record \$3.46 per bushel, basis No. 1 C.W., in September. Initial price for 1961 crop was set at \$1.75. As stocks of durum will be at a minimum by July 31, some increase in Canadian acreage is expected in 1962.

Oats Carryover on July 31, 1961, was 94.4 million bushels, or about 2½ months domestic supply. Quotations for No. 2 C.W. varied from 75 to 97¼ cents per bushel during the 1960-61 crop year, with threat of drought moving prices up rapidly in July.

Drought and hot weather caused 1961 crops to be about half normal in Manitoba, and one-third normal in Saskatchewan. Oats production is estimated at 327.5 million bushels this year, compared with 456.1 million in 1960. Commercial and farm stocks will be drawn down to minimum levels by end of crop year. In view of this, about 13 million acres should be seeded to oats next spring, compared with 11.6 million this year, assuming an average yield of 38.6 bushels per acre.

Barley Carryover stocks were down to 106.4 million bushels, 7 months domestic supply, at July 31 this year. Mainland China was main importer of Canadian barley in 1960-61, with shipments of 20.4 million bushels. Prices strengthened as drought worsened.

A combination of 18 per cent fewer acres of barley in 1961 and a drop of 30 per cent in average yield per acre reduced this year's production to an estimated 121.9 bushels, compared with 207 million last year. Year-end farm stocks will likely be at a minimum in West, with just enough from last carryover and 1961 crop for domestic market and limited exports. Higher prices are expected to continue this crop year.

To replenish stocks, about 7.8 million acres will have to be seeded next spring, compared with 6.1 million in 1961.

Rye World rye production may not have changed much in 1961, but production in Western Europe and North America dropped by nearly 25 per cent. West Germany bought Canadian rye, and U.S. has not renewed its import quotas. But prices are such that exports to U.S. may be lower this season than last.

Grain Corn Canadian production estimated at 33.8 million bushels in 1961 — second highest on record. Imports from U.S. are likely to be larger than in previous year, and domestic disappearance in 1961-62 should be a record. It is expected that U.S. prices will average slightly higher than in 1960-61, with a similar pattern in Canada.

Oilseeds Flax prices rose high last summer; yields were low as result of drought. Doubtful if prices can be maintained long because of declining demand for linseed and ample soybean supplies in U.S. Also, Argentine flax supply expected to increase. Soybean prices depend largely on U.S., whose big 1961 crop will have seasonal depressing effect on early 1962 prices. Canadian support price is \$2.13 per bushel, No. 2 or better, delivered. Rapeseed acreage down in 1961 but yields were up. Rapeseed now eligible for export shipments at "Crowsnest" rates, reducing transport costs about ½ cent per lb. But export prices likely to be lower than in 1960-61.

Potatoes Crop about same this year as last, U.S. crop up 11 per cent, and Eastern Canada prices much below a year earlier. Prices not likely to reach last year's levels. Consumption per capita dropping, but new processed products may improve it.

Based on Federal-Provincial Agricultural Outlook Conference documents for 1961.

(Reports on other farm commodities are on page 46)



[Guide photos

Veteran cattleman John S. Palmer of Marsden, Sask., with his British bull "Bwlchllyn Namesake."

"For Whom the Bull Toils"

by CLIFF FAULKNER



Cecil Palmer examining some wheat, oats and barley grown as a ready-mixed grain ration.



Maurice Palmer, the other son, takes a mid-morning snack during last summer's harvest.



Every fall, buyers gather at the Palmer ranch bull sale held in this big quonset.

**"Successful cattle breeding
needs quality stock,
a breeder's integrity
and efficient management"**

WHEN a veteran cattle breeder meets someone just starting out, he often asks the newcomer if he has a son to carry on after him. For successful cattle breeding is no game for fly-by-nights. It's a long-range proposition, intimately linked with a breeder's ability and character. The family name itself becomes the real trademark of the enterprise.

Since they first started raising purebred Herefords, the Palmers of Marsden, Sask., have been aware of this. They believe both a breeder and his stock should have records which would bear the closest scrutiny. Years ago they decided on a policy of weeding out animal blood lines that showed undesirable inheritance factors, or individual animals with a breeding defect. Twice in the history of their operation it has meant getting rid of an entire herd, and starting over again.

In each case, John Stanley Palmer and his partner sons, Cecil and Maurice, arrived at this major decision after holding a family council.

"First, we must determine what we're trying to do here," J. S. suggested. "If it is producing seed stock, then I say that seed stock must be the best we can get."

The others agreed. They also agreed on the method of disposal. All suspected animals would be sold as non-breeders, and the buyer told exactly why they were being disposed of.

For their present herd, the Palmers searched far afield for animals with sound family records. In the meantime, they've found another tool to help them choose the best of their own breeding for herd replacements. This tool is performance testing. When Saskatchewan joined the Federal-Provincial Record of Performance scheme, they were among the first to support it.

"Some have shied away from performance testing," said J. S. "But Saskatchewan breeders took it in their stride. Farther west," he added with a twinkle, "breeders don't take to new ideas quite as readily. When you try to move them onto new ground they just circle and bellow."

This touch of humor shows again in ads announcing Palmer bull sales. When the family obtained a British bull called "Bwlchllyn Namesake" from Ywfeglwys, Caersws, Wales, their ads bore the following notation in brackets: "A bad cold helps in the pronunciation of the above."

Not for Show Ring

The Palmers no longer exhibit animals in the show ring. They concentrate on developing good breeders. Animals culled from their herd are marked "for slaughter only."

"Personally, I don't place undue importance on the ability of an animal to win top honors in the show ring," J. S. explained. "I'm much more interested in a good family reputation than any individual excellence."

Some years ago, Mr. Palmer heard that a bull named "Imperial Stanway" was being offered at a Montana sale. He knew the animal had an impressive family tree and good production record, so he decided to bid on it. When he arrived at the sale, the bull was nowhere to be seen. He finally found the old fellow in a nearby shed, looking neglected and forlorn compared to the sleek bulls being judged in the main building. "Imperial Stanway" was rough and rangy, and also lame in one leg. But J. S. bought the animal regardless. He was remembering the bull's record.

"Imperial Stanway" didn't let his new owner down. He lived out his life at the Palmer ranch, and always produced calves that were better than himself. He was a real herd improver.

Mr. Palmer came to Canada from England in 1906. Two years later he took out a homestead in the rolling bush-covered country west of Marsden. He had originally intended to become a grain grower, but found his land was more suited to forage and livestock. Cultivation was difficult when the only horsepower to hand was the oat-burning kind. Subsoil moisture reserves were also poor, and crops had to grow on what

moisture fell each year. The frost came too early for wheat varieties then available.

"Many who arrived in the first wave of settlement were either dried out or frosted out," Mr. Palmer recalled. "As soon as a bit of money was available I got some livestock. I didn't want to have all my eggs in one basket. In 1917, I started raising purebred Herefords."

Sold on Silage

Today, the Palmers carry about 80 head of breeding females on 2,560 acres. They grow all their own grain and forage, plus some grain and grass seed. Grain, grass and sweet clover aftermaths are utilized for hay and pasture. The straw is generally baled for bedding. But the ace-in-the-hole at the Palmer ranch is their smooth-working silage program.

"We started putting up silage because we were forced into it," said Cecil Palmer. "We couldn't produce enough hay for the number of animals carried. Now, we'd never consider going back to the old method."

"A first, we tried to get by with oat hay. But some years the heads were so heavy the stuff lay on the wet ground and spoiled. By trying to 'hay' oats we found we were losing two crops out of five to the weather. With silage, we can 'hay' in the rain."

"If we had to depend on grass we'd need another 1,000 acres for our present herd," Maurice pointed out.

Oats, sweet clover and an oat-barley-wheat mixture have all been used as silage. The silos themselves are just deep oblong pits dug into the side of a hill. When the crop has been packed in tightly, it is covered with a layer of polyethylene plastic. Cost of bulldozing a pit that will hold about 1,000 tons of forage is \$125 to \$150.

"As a matter of fact, almost anything green seems to make good silage," Mr. Palmer said, "providing it has the right moisture content. Last year we filled a silo with weeds, mostly pigweed and Russian thistle. We fed this to our best stock and they loved it. Later, we had samples analyzed at the University. The protein content was as high as that of clover. Perhaps we could utilize more of this natural growth instead of spending so much time and money fighting it."

The Palmers find that silage preserves the "summer" appearance of their cattle throughout the winter. Cows appear to settle in calf more readily after a winter on silage. They calve easier too, and have no "retention



Young bulls taking well-cured silage from a feeder.

of afterbirth" troubles. When silage is fed, there are no apparent vitamin deficiencies, and less need for protein feed supplements. The silage actually contains three or four times the herd's Vitamin A requirements. About 25 lb. of silage per cow per day will carry the animals through the winter in fine shape.

"Silage making also lends itself to co-operative use of machines," Cecil Palmer stated. "Two neighbors with medium-sized trucks can handle the output of a forage harvester following a 14- to 16-foot swather. But it's very important for you to get the right kind of machine for your own conditions. Try out a few on your place before you buy one."

"Get a machine that gives short, clean cuts. You'll find that the material will be easier to pack and dig out of the silo."

For average or low rainfall areas, the Palmers advise the use of a pick-up forage harvester over the cutter-bar type. The swather can cut twice the width of swath and the harvester will still handle it, thus saving the operator miles of extra travel.



Dr. M. A. Macdonald of Macdonald College, P.Q. (r.) and Dr. C. M. Williams, University of Sask., discuss beef quality and profits at field day on the ranch.

"A self-propelled swather makes the job faster and easier," explained Maurice. "It places the grain heads toward the swath's center so the material feeds into the harvester more evenly, especially in wet weather. In heavy green crops, the two short canvasses of the self-propelled also give less trouble."

The Palmers favor a radial-knife type of harvester, rather than a flail. The silage is blown into a following truck because their land is too hilly for a wagon. Using two trucks, they manage to bring in about 15 tons an hour. This is dumped along the pit sides and pushed in with a blade.

What they've learned about silage they willingly share with others. Every year a silage field day is held at the ranch attended by people from near and far.

The Palmers have cut down on their summerfallowing since they went in for silage. They don't like to tie themselves to rigid crop rotations. The moisture gained doesn't make up for the lost acreage.

"We try to use the moisture as it falls," said J. S., "or to 'farm with the weather,' you might say. We often nip in and seed a grain crop for silage or pasture anytime from early spring to the middle of August. A fellow who is tied to a rotation can't do that. He would just have to do without."

One 30-acre fallow field sown first to oats, and then to oats and wheat on stubble, carried 30 cows and their calves for two consecutive years of grazing. Bull calves which were put in at 175 lb. weighed an average of 540 lb. when they came off—a gain of about 360 lb. per acre (cow gains not counted). This would have been lost if the land had been left fallow.

Radical Methods

This natural bent for employing radical methods isn't confined to silage making. Faced with the problem of building a dugout in ground too soft for heavy machinery, the Palmers blasted it out! Into a hole 2 feet wide by 8 feet deep they placed a ton of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and 20 sticks of dynamite. This was spiked with 18 gallons of diesel fuel, and the hole filled and packed. The explosion blew a crater 22 feet deep by 55 feet wide. Total cost of the operation was \$100.

"This doesn't include a car top bashed in and a broken windshield at a distance of one-quarter of a mile," J. S. smiled. "I'd caution the neighbors to open all windows and take a short vacation." The Palmers have heard since from the Federal Government that unauthorized explosions are illegal.

Now in semi-retirement on the ranch, John Palmer has this to say to fledgling purebred men: "Set your sights on a definite goal. If you want to raise grand champions, select stock that has a background of grand champions. If you're looking for big, fast-gaining animals that will breed well under all conditions, search for these characteristics in the records." V



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EGG FARM KEYED TO SALES

by **DON BARON**

LIONEL SMITH was a store manager who lived in 7 different cities in the 7 years preceding 1958. At the end of those 7 years, it had become apparent to him that there were many things in life more important than money. Things like the freedom and satisfaction of working for yourself; of being settled into a community and feeling part of it; of becoming disentangled from business society. Such goals had so far eluded him.

But in that year, he and his step-father, James Edwards of Montreal, bought a farm near Fredericton, N.B.

"It was a tremendous decision to make," he recalls now, "to give up a good salary and the standard of living and the security it represented to go farming."

They remodeled the old cattle barn into a 4-storied laying house, put in their first chicks in the spring of 1959, had their first eggs that fall, and shipped for several months to an egg grading station.

When it became apparent that they required more revenue, they decided to eliminate the middleman. Smith began calling on local restaurants and hotels, and on housewives too. He found a waiting market. The partners built their flock to over 5,000 hens, and soon had 1,000 customers. Then, last spring, their main building, with most of their hens, burned to the ground.

It was a shattering piece of luck, but the partners never hesitated in making the decision to start again.

They had already been planning a new laying house to expand their enterprise. Edwards had even drawn up a list of labor-saving and cost-cutting ideas for such a building — ones that occurred to him as he worked around the place. After the fire, the partners got out their list and called in engineering and poultry specialists from the provincial department of agriculture for further ideas and assistance. Arnold Roberts, the provincial engineer, even drafted up a plan for their proposed building. Last summer, Edwards himself who is an experienced carpenter, built it. Now, their egg business is back in full stride.

Quality and Sales

Key to the business seems to be their selling program. Pricing is the main problem facing anyone delivering eggs door-to-door, says Smith. Several alternatives face him. One way would be to follow government-listed prices in the newspaper. But experience showed him that when prices fall, demand may rise so high that he can't meet it from his flock. Later, when prices climb high, demand falls off, leaving him with unsold eggs.

His solution to this conundrum ties in with his philosophy of producing eggs. "If you produce an egg, or anything else, for that matter, of high enough quality, people will buy it," he says. Smith and Edwards spare no effort to build that kind of quality right into their eggs.

Two former city men, with 5,000 hens, are trying to take the fluctuations out of egg prices

CAREFUL FEEDING — Bulk-delivered ration is handfed daily by James Edwards. He says there's no wastage with homemade hanging feeders (r.).



PERSONAL SERVICE: Lionel Smith knows his customers, offers a quality egg at a steady price all year round.



FREQUENT GATHERING, three or four times a day, is done by Barry Smith (l.) from the back of the community nests, without going into pens.



PRACTICAL LAYOUT of Eleonora Farm poultry house features community-type nests, which are hung on a wall in the center work room. Hens at left enter the nests through holes in the wall.

They buy the best pullets they can find regardless of price. They feed the best rations that are available. Eggs are collected from the nests 3 or 4 times a day, cleaned and graded immediately, and then packed. They are ready for delivery to customers within 2 or 3 days of the time they are laid. Every egg that goes off the farm is good, and it's fresh.

By assuring customers of top quality eggs, and by personally delivering these eggs right to the door, Smith has a running start on most competitors. And armed with these advantages, he is setting out on a new pricing program — an attempt to maintain an average price throughout the year. When prices rise, he is sacrificing extra profits by holding a steady price. When prices slump, he is holding firm to his regular price too.

He has had tickets printed, as well, and offers them to housewives, much as the milkman sells tickets in advance for bottles of milk. The housewife can leave the tickets at her door, delivery day, if she won't be home.

Will it work? Smith thinks it will. He recalls that when local prices went down to 43 cents a dozen a few months ago, he was able to maintain a 50-cent price without losing a customer.

In September, when we visited Smith, store prices were up to 70 cents, yet he was still selling for 60 cents. During that time, he was taking great pains to point out to his customers his intended program—price stability all year.

In the Smith-Edwards scheme of things, Edwards looks after production, while Smith does

the selling and bookkeeping. Smith's son, Barry Smith, does probably as much work as either of them in handling, cleaning, grading and packing the eggs.

Streamlined Production

The new laying house is designed for labor efficiency and flock comfort. It's a 2-storied structure with steel sheathing outside, plywood paneling inside, shavings for insulation, and a vapor barrier.

A central work room also serves as the egg gathering room, because the community nests are located there rather than in the pens. Hens have access to these nests through holes in the wall.

The four laying pens each measure 38 feet by 48 feet, and the dropping pits and roosts are located along the end walls of each pen. Doors at each end allow a tractor to enter for cleaning out. Litter in the pens upstairs is scraped down through trap doors by means of a small hand tractor fitted with a blade.

Feed is handled in bulk. The 10-ton plywood bin is partitioned into four compartments. Feed flows by gravity from the compartments into each pen. The birds are hand-fed a complete ration in homemade hanging feeders, a job that takes two men about an hour each day.

When we visited the farm, the 5-months-old pullets had reached 80 per cent rate of lay, although they had been in the pens only 3 weeks.



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Bloat and Shipping Fever

DR. R. E. NICHOLS, University of Wisconsin, has some frank views about shipping fever and bloat that farmers would do well to heed.

"Poor handling and shipping techniques, rather than any specific infections, are more likely to cause shipping fever," he said recently.

"Transporting cattle from one place to another causes a disturbance of the adrenal glands. This disturbance can be measured.

"Calves are more susceptible to shipping fever than are older cattle because the latter are more used to being handled," he explained.

Instead of trying to disinfect an animal's environment, or to vaccinate against this disease, shippers should



Dr. R. E. Nichols

take more care to control endocrinal activity (keep them quiet) while animals are being transported.

As for the bloat problem, Dr. Nichols indicated that researchers are very near to discovering what causes it. "Although there are no dependable bloat preventives at present," he said, "some new anti-enzymes are being tested which I feel will be dependable when they are ready to be put on the market."

In the meantime, farmers should watch what their animals are eating. Succulent new top growth of alfalfa and clover is very likely to cause bloat. When legumes are in a state of rapid growth, farmers should supply their animals with some good quality dry feed as a preventive measure, he advised.



"Can't understand it. I started giving him this big heart-rending story about losing my job in a margarine factory, and—Pow!"



Bill Loose runs three large-capacity combines which take off all his grain crop in 3 weeks. It's not unusual if Bill trades them in after one season.

THE 12-TRACTOR MAN

*With 7,000 acres,
Bill Loose needs machines
operating at full
capacity and he can't
afford breakdowns*

by CLIFF FAULKNOR

“WHEN it comes to farm machinery, I believe it's better to trade fast than spend time and money on overhaul jobs,” said Bill Loose of Vulcan. “Take combines for instance. At harvest time, I have a lot of grain getting ripe in a hurry so I need a machine that can operate at full capacity, day after day. I can't afford breakdowns.”

C. W. (Bill) Loose was born at Magrath, in southern Alberta. About 28 years ago he bought land in the Vulcan area along with two of his brothers. All three had come to Vulcan for the same reason—they wanted room to expand. In their home district there wasn't enough good farmland available at the right price.

Bill's first place was the three-quarter section piece where his home and buildings now stand. When he took it over, a lot of improvement work was needed. There were shel-

terbelts to be planted and a stock watering reservoir to be built. After he'd fixed things up to his satisfaction, Bill started looking around for more acreage.

“From then on, I never turned down a chance to get land,” he told The Country Guide. “At first I rented, then I bought every piece I could. A lot of people thought I was crazy to spread myself out like that, but those acres sure came in handy during the war.”

It was while World War II was on that Loose switched from mixed farming to straight grain. One reason for this was that it was hard to get farm labor.

Looking back on those years, Bill admits that it was “easy farming.” Crops could be handled mechanically, and there was a ready market for all you produced. The only fly in the ointment was the low grain

price farmers had to take because of Wheat Board control.

“Now the Government is dabbling in poultry and hogs (deficiency payments),” he said. “I sure hope we can keep them out of the cattle business.”

TODAY, Bill Loose grows 7,000 acres of wheat, flax, oats and barley. Since the bloom has been off the grain market, he's gone back into livestock to the tune of 1,400 hogs and 300-400 head of feeder cattle. In addition to his grain, he grows 100 acres of alfalfa and 100 acres of brome grass to supply rough-



“What I aim for is a faster, smoother operation,” says this Vulcan farmer.

age for his feeders. In recent years Bill has gone in for horse raising, mostly because he likes horses. He

keeps a couple of stallions (one a Palomino) and about 17 mares.

Mechanization has enabled the Loose farm to operate with a permanent staff of three men. During the summer months the manpower is increased to seven. Machine power is provided by 12 tractors, 3 swathers and 3 large-capacity combines. Weather permitting, these machines can take the whole grain crop off in about 3 weeks.

When harvest rolls around, Loose gets his combines into the grain each morning as soon as the dew has gone. Men and machines are kept on the go from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., except for meal stops. Bill hardly takes time out even for that. If you want to contact him during harvest about the only way you can do it is to set up road blocks around his farm. A hard worker himself, he expects any man he hires to “pull his weight,” or get off the job. Any machine that can't stand the pace lands back at the dealer's, and the dealer had better do something about it—fast!

At harvest's end, the machines are serviced in the farm's up-to-date machine shop, and either put away or turned in on newer models. It's not unusual for Bill to trade in his three combines after only one season's use.

“What I'm aiming at is more efficiency through a faster, smoother operation,” he explained. “If I figure there are enough improvements on a new model to help me get the job done quicker, I'll trade every year.”

Making Do with Straw, Native Hay, Cereal Hay

WHAT do you know about straw, native hay, and cereal crop hay as feed for cattle and sheep? If you are having to use them in the ration this winter, these comments from the University of Manitoba should be helpful:

Straw: Low in proteins, vitamins and minerals; straw's chief role is in supplying energy; barley and oat straws have about 60 per cent of the energy value of a brome-alfalfa mixture; wheat and rye straws have only 25 per cent of the energy value of good quality hay. So straw is not likely to supply the energy needs of cattle and sheep by itself.

Native Hay: Nutritional value varies widely; upland hay, cut at the right stage, is fairly equal to tame grass hay; harvested at an advanced stage of maturity it has lower feeding value than tame grass hay; marsh or slough hay is usually very inferior to upland hay because it is coarser and more fibrous. In general, native hay is approximately equal in feeding value to average quality straw.

Cereal Crop Hay: Oats and barley cut in the soft dough stage compare reasonably well to grass hay, such as brome; wheat and rye hay have about 90 per cent of the feeding value of brome hay; there is a possibility of nitrate poisoning through feeding cereal hays.

To sum up, all these roughages, either singly or together, are likely to be deficient in proteins, minerals and vitamins, and will not supply all energy needs. Energy and protein needs can be met mostly by feeding grains; mineral needs are supplied by a free-choice, commercial mineral supplement, or a mixture of two-thirds bonemeal and one-third cobalt iodized salt. Vitamin A is probably the only vitamin that is deficient and it can be supplied by adding synthetic dry A, or by feeding dehydrated alfalfa meal. Protein supplements, like soybean oil meal, can make up for lack of protein.

Instead of providing minerals, vitamins and proteins individually, a beef or dairy cattle commercial supplement can be incorporated in a grain mixture.

When roughage has to be restricted, remember that enough must be fed to promote adequate cud-chewing, if digestive disturbances are to be avoided. All roughage, regardless of its nutritional worth, can maintain and stimulate this process. Here are minimum daily amounts of roughage considered necessary for proper functioning of the digestive system:

Dairy cows in heavy milk, 8-10 lb.; beef cows or dry dairy cows, 4 lb.; yearling cattle and calves, 3 lb.; feedlot cattle, 3 lb.; sheep ½ lb. ✓



Elevators and dump trucks lighten the load when they're handling the grain.

Guidelines

Some quotes from *The Country Guide* in 1961

EACH of us has personal memories of 1961. Jane and Jim were married, there was the awful shock of Grandpa's death, young Frank went to college, Dad hooked the biggest trout of his life, weeks and months passed without a drop of rain, Betty's 4-H Club calf took the championship, everyone gathered at Joe's farm to help him build his barn. And, beyond the personal events, there were the huge and terrible crises of the human race. But the everyday tasks were attended to, and most of us came through the year still on our feet.

Meanwhile, *The Country Guide* was doing what it has been doing for the past 53 years—recording the ups and downs of farming, passing information along, helping to spread ideas that could be put to use—and trying to do these things in new and interesting ways. A few extracts from the year's work are repeated here. The sample is a small one, out of the more than 700 pages that have made up the issues of the past 11 months. But we hope this will suffice as a reminder of the kind of year it has been.

Crossbreds in Today's Farming, written by Dr. W. E. Howell of the University of Saskatchewan for the February issue, contained this "ABC of Crossbreeding":

- ✓ Crossbreeding is intended to increase efficiency of production through marketing more animals in a shorter time on less feed.
- ✓ Hybrid vigor, a characteristic of crossbreds, means a boost in vitality, growth, disease resistance, fertility and production.
- ✓ The quality of individuals used in a crossbreeding program is as important as the choice of breeds.
- ✓ The mating of crossbred females to purebred males is the key to greatest benefits from crossbreeding.
- ✓ Crisscrossing and rotational crossing are two methods recommended to farmers for a continuous crossing program.
- ✓ Crisscrossing calls for the alternate use of sires of two different breeds. Rotational crossing is exactly the same, except that sires of three or more breeds are used alternately.
- ✓ An alternative method is to purchase selected crossbred females and mate them to the same unrelated male, year after year; then to market all the offspring.

CFA's Quarter Century was celebrated at the annual meeting in February, when the delegates approved this Canadian Federation of Agriculture statement on price, production and marketing policy:

"While agriculture will need a large measure of government co-operation and assistance in carrying out its programs, yet the CFA believes that overall government control of marketing, production and prices in agriculture is not a necessary or desirable direction for farm policy to take. Nevertheless, it is essential that greater order and stability of prices and production should be achieved in agriculture. The best means for achieving a maximum degree of such order and stability without an undue measure of government control or excessive loss of individual freedom and initiative, is through the development of producer controlled marketing.

"The CFA therefore takes the position that comprehensive development of agricultural co-operatives and producer marketing boards in

Canada should be recognized as the best means for putting agriculture on a more stable, orderly basis. The resources of organized farmers should be increasingly devoted to achieving this objective. Plans for doing so should be boldly conceived and quickly developed. While it does not hold out the promise of quick and easy solutions, it does hold out the best promise for permanent and satisfactory ones.

"The pursuit of such an objective implies, of course, the taking of concerted action on a national scale. It is evident that in most products isolated provincial action can be expected to achieve limited objectives only. Effective planning and co-ordination of price, production and marketing programs require action on a regional or national scale."

The MacPherson Report (Vol. I) on Canada's railways reached some general conclusions on public policy which were summarized in May:

- Regulation of transportation should be minimized as much as possible, consistent with the protection of public interest. Regulations that are retained should bear equitably on all carriers.
- Rationalization of railway plant and operations should be actively encouraged by public policy. Where it is necessary to retain rail operations, such as unprofitable passenger or branch line services, the railways should be paid from public funds to cover deficits on such services.
- No form of transport should be singled out as an instrument of public policy, if a burden is involved, unless compensation is provided to that mode of transport to prevent distortions in the transportation market.
- Public assistance, through the transportation medium, which is designed to aid particular shippers or regions, should be recognized for what it is and not be disguised as a subsidy to the transportation industry.

Up-to-Date Dairy Breeding Program boosted production in the Ontario Agricultural College herd. A report in the September issue included this key advice from Dr. Clare Rennie:

LOCATE THE BEST BULL YOU CAN FIND

Don't be fooled by high prices or red ribbons. Choose a bull that measures up in the toughest test of all—the production and type of his unselected daughters.

Electronic computers are being used nowadays to keep summaries of bulls up to date. Check the bull's scores on:

- *Contemporary Comparison* (production of his daughters).
- Type of his daughters.

To obtain bull summaries, and to get help in using them, refer to your:

- A.I. unit.
- Breed association fieldman.
- Breed association head office.

If you prefer natural breeding to A.I., and can't locate a proven bull to buy, here's how to choose a bull that will help you.

- Select one from a production-tested herd. (Herd average above breed average.)
- Whose dam is equal to, or better than, the herd average.
- Whose sire has a proof (both for production and type if possible) that is better than breed average.

SELECT HEIFERS CAREFULLY

- Allow all heifers, unless abnormal, to complete one lactation.
- Cull heifers that are 20 per cent or more below herd average on their first lactation. If others don't come up to herd average on next lactation, cull them.

Production Control in Agriculture was the subject of a 3-part series by Dr. J. C. Gilson of the University of Manitoba in the April, May and June issues of *The Country Guide*. It ended with these comments:

1. Is production control the answer to the price-cost squeeze? The answer is apparently no, for some commodities. Beef producers, for example, seem able to live with the open market. For other commodities, such as fluid milk, we have long agreed that production control is essential. For still other commodities, the answer remains to be found.

2. If production control becomes necessary, who should do the controlling? Canadian farmers seem determined to do the controlling through co-operatives and marketing boards—with some government help. Farmers must be clear, however, on what they can and cannot accomplish. We insist, for example, that control over market supplies is no substitute for production control, if the basic problem is overproduction relative to a price level that farmers regard as acceptable.

3. Even if Canadian farmers agree to production control, how can it be accomplished? There are several alternatives, and each is fraught with difficulties. Perhaps the most difficult aspect is whether farmers will accept the regimentation that must accompany an effective program. In a democratic country, only the farmers can answer this question.

4. The national farm organizations are challenged to do some soul searching on this matter of production control in agriculture. Why is it needed? Who should control it? How will it be accomplished?

He Does It By the Book, and produces high quality eggs. The story of August Schiller in the September issue highlighted a report on Saskatchewan's Seal of Quality egg program, which lays down the following conditions:

- ★ Open to producers with 200 or more birds.
- ★ Seal of Quality awarded to those who meet the standards. They can display the seal on their egg cartons.
- ★ Poultry houses and equipment must always be clean and sanitary.
- ★ All birds must be confined and housed acceptably. It's recommended that layers should not be kept after 14 months of production.
- ★ Birds must be fed a ration that produces an acceptable egg of uniform quality.
- ★ Eggs must be stored at 50° to 55°, with humidity at 70 to 80 per cent.
- ★ Egg deliveries must be made frequently to maintain quality.
- ★ Only eggs grading A1 or A under Canadian regulations merit the Saskatchewan Seal of Quality. A sample of 12 to 24 eggs is broken periodically, and average albumen quality should be 70 Haugh units or over.

Price Support That Could Help Dairy Industry was proposed by Prof. D. R. Campbell of the Ontario Agricultural College in October, and the role of the Federal Government in such a program was summarized:

CAMPBELL PROPOSALS

- ✓ Purchase all skim milk powder offered to the Agricultural Stabilization Board at 12¢ per lb., spray powder basis.
- ✓ Sell as much as possible for human consumption at home for 12¢ per lb. and in underdeveloped countries for less.
- ✓ Add a harmless dye to the remaining skim milk powder purchases and offer the product for sale as a protein supplement.
- ✓ Reduce the butter price support to 52¢ per lb.

SPF Pigs—pigs removed surgically from the sow before birth and said to be "specific-pathogen-free"—made their appearance in Ontario and Alberta. The idea is to produce pigs that are known to be free of atrophic rhinitis and virus pneumonia. In the March issue, a

report on the new development listed these advantages:

- SPF pigs grow faster (in one college trial they were 46 lb. heavier than ordinary pigs at 5 months).
- they raise more pigs per litter.
- they require fewer drugs and fewer calls from the veterinarian.

"Resources for Tomorrow" conference in Montreal included an Agricultural Workshop, whose recommendations were reported in the November issue, as follows:

- Each province should compile and evaluate information on land use within its borders.
- This provincial information should be integrated on a national basis to achieve uniform standards, and to indicate areas where more surveys and research are needed, for an inventory of Canada's land resources and capabilities.
- Land should not be released from agriculture for other uses without considering its quality for crop production, since food and fiber have high priority.
- Land unsuitable for cultivation should be shifted to other uses to increase economic productivity and improve social conditions.
- Land purchase policies would be essential for adjustment in use of large or small agricultural land units.
- If people were relocated, programs should provide financial help and local facilities for retraining.
- Successful rural development requires balanced research and extension in the physical, economic, and social aspects of land use.
- More assistance is needed by individual farmers to help them to adjust land use on their own farms.

Agricultural Economics Research came into the limelight in April, when the first National Conference on Farm Policy Research agreed, in essence, on the following points:

1. The need for an independent, national research organization to undertake, correlate, and assist in making funds available for agricultural economics and social research.
2. Establishment of an Agricultural Economics Research Council of Canada should be considered to meet this need.
3. Proposed council should be governed by a board selected by federal and provincial govern-

ments, universities, farm organizations and co-operatives, and other business and industry associated with agriculture.

4. Council would be financed by broadly based contributions. An endowment fund, as an assured source of income, would safeguard independence and be a prerequisite to acquiring and developing a well-trained and permanent staff.

5. A continuing committee should prepare recommendations, including a provisional board and the financing of the Council.

6. The national steering committee should employ a full-time executive secretary to provide continuity in developing the proposed council.

Home Towns Get Down to Business brought readers up to date on the movement of industries to rural communities and the changes in patterns of farming encouraged by Manitoba's regional development program:

- ★ Regional surveys of province seek out resources that could be developed in each district.
- ★ Agriculture, industry, business and tourism are the four dimensions of community development.
- ★ Community Development Corporations enlist local support for projects; offer incentives to industries.
- ★ Manitoba Development Fund and the Industrial Development Bank make loans for community projects.
- ★ Decisions are made at the community level; provincial government departments offer help as needed.
- ★ The development program is intended to benefit everyone in the province—both urban and rural communities.

How to Weld, a January feature, dealt with this increasingly important side of mechanized farming, and offered the following safety tips:

1. Oxygen and acetylene cylinders should never be dropped or placed near heat.
2. Don't use oil or grease on regulators or store oxygen cylinders near lubricants—you might have an explosion.
3. Never light a torch until you are sure there are no leaks and torch and hoses have been purged of air.
4. Don't lay a lighted torch down, or point it at people or equipment.
5. Keep sparks or flame away from cylinder, hoses and clothing.
6. Leave key in place on the acetylene bottle so you can shut the cylinder off quickly in case of fire.
7. Always wear protective goggles.
8. Keep oxy-acetylene and arc welding equipment strictly separate.

Tanks for Hog Manure are an interesting development designed to eliminate most of the work, odor, mess, and loss in handling hog manure. The Country Guide interviewed a number of people in Ontario who had experience with the underground tanks, and these were their comments:

- Hog manure is a liquid, so mechanical gutter cleaners are not really satisfactory.
- Lagoons or open ponds appear suitable if hog pens are washed down with water, but to save manure for use on fields, without diluting it, tanks may be the answer.
- Manure can drain down into the tank as it is produced, and cleaning out of pens needs only a few minutes a day.
- Manure accumulates in the tank for months, ready to be hauled to the field when convenient. Savings can be made by replacing commercial fertilizer, at least in part, with manure.
- An auger lifts manure from the tank, and a spreader does the rest.

Through Field and Wood

No. 39

by CLARENCE TILLENIUS

A MATURE white-tail buck who has survived the "foolish years" becomes ever more alert and wily, out-foxing his pursuers until he becomes a legend in the district where he lives.

Such a buck seems to realize he is a sought-for trophy, and to track him and study his habits is to be taught many an unexpected lesson in resourcefulness. He feeds in the



pale light before dawn or in the gray dusk, then heads far away to seek out some high spot with a wide view, or an impenetrable thicket where no one can approach without making a noise. Here he makes a maze of tracks to baffle anyone following his trail, and circles down wind to his bed. Almost invariably

he lies down facing his back track and it is a rare stalker who can come on him here without his knowledge.

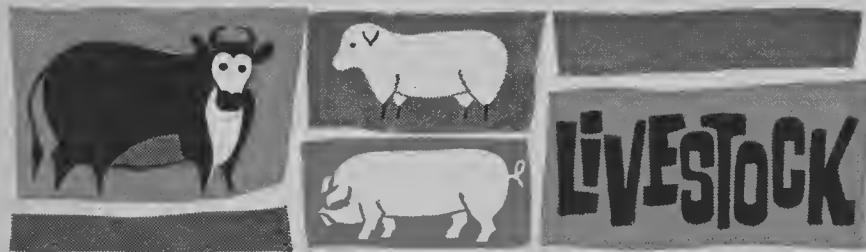
Yet his very caution sometimes becomes his undoing. The precautions he is taking to outwit a known enemy may lead him directly into a danger not foreseen. Illustrating this, a hunter told me of still-hunting through a neck of woods on either side of which were abandoned fields now going back to bush. As he entered the sparsely treed cover he heard voices in the distance coming nearer. Being near a stonepile ringed with brush he sat down to watch the approaching hunters. There were 4 or 5 walking noisily through the trees, talking and shouting to each other. None of them saw the man by the stonepile and he remained sitting still for some time after they had gone by.

When they had passed out of sight and hearing, he prepared to go, assuming that nothing remained in that particular wood. He was about to rise when a flicker of movement to one side caught his eye. For a moment or two all was still as

before. Then, not 60 yards distant, a magnificent buck rose to his feet out of the little patch of grass and bushes in the otherwise open woods. He stretched luxuriously, stood for a few minutes gazing with ears cocked in the direction the men had taken, then turned and came walking directly past the stonepile where my friend sat.

Though two of the hunting party had passed within yards of the brush patch not one had either seen or

suspected the big buck lying there motionless. In all likelihood the buck sensed this and, but for the pure chance of my friend having sat where he did, the stratagem would have been completely successful. Some might say this was a foolish animal, but anyone calling this buck simple or unwary should reflect how many times in his own life a carefully thought-out plan has been upset by some completely unforeseen event over which he had no control. V



Big Gains from Native Pastures

Rainy River cattleman quit grain farming and let the clovers and grass take over

IN the days when Les Atkin grew grain and flax, he suffered from many a wet, backbreaking harvest. His farm at Rainy River, Ont., has an impermeable soil that tends to keep the moisture on or near the surface, and often makes it hard to work. But since he became what he calls "a manufacturer of beef from grass," he has turned the high water table into a valuable asset.

It happened about 11 years ago, when Les was driving a 4-plow tractor and had to stand up on it to look over a tall growth of wild clover in order to see the field he was headed for. "Why on earth," he thought, "do I wear myself out growing other crops while this stuff grows so abundantly all around me?" He had three heifers at the time, and this incident helped him to a decision.

He started out with big heifers and has continued to place the

emphasis on big, growthy cattle. He has both Shorthorn and Hereford, and produces crosses too, but is not prepared to say which is best. He weans calves at 600 lb. or more in the fall, and attributes this size as much to plenty of lush forage as to his breeding program.

A friend of his described the Rainy River district as the land where clover is a weed. A good deal of Les Atkin's pasture consists of bluegrass and clover which grew of its own accord, where he used to seed flax, and he has never needed to do anything but graze it. As an example of the moisture conditions that encourage this kind of growth, Les had a couple of men dig a water hole in a low spot, at a cost of \$16, and it has never dried up.

On cultivated land, a mixture of Vernal alfalfa, timothy, alsike and brome seeded last year was so tall

in the following spring that he ran 200 head of cattle in there for a week or two and they did it no harm at all. In all, there are 200 acres of open pasture, plus grazing in the brush. His total acreage is 1,070 and he grows practically all the grass and oats he needs. This is for a herd that this year amounted to 5 bulls, 90 bred cows and heifers, a crop of about 87 calves, 36 yearling heifers and 18 steers—236 head.

In May, Les picked four average calves from last year's crop and found that they had a combined weight of 3,650 lb. Some were Herefords and some Shorthorn crosses. They started last winter on 1½ lb. of oats and beef grower, and were

implanted. The ration increased to about 4½ lb. daily by the end of winter, and by June they had reached a level of 160 lb. for all 18 steers.

On one occasion, Les Atkin sold a group of late-weaned calves at 700 lb. for 27 cents per lb. off the farm, when prices were averaging 24 and 25 cents at Winnipeg. The offer was too tempting to refuse, but normally he doesn't plan to sell stockers.

He reckons all his cattle do well for him, whether they're registered Herefords, heavy beef-type Shorthorns, or a mixture. He made a comparison between a pen of Shorthorns and another of crossbred calves. The Shorthorns made the best gains at



Les Atkin with one of the big herd sires. Heredity and outstanding pasture are producing fast-growing cattle on this Rainy River district farm. [Guide photo]

first, but later the crosses made a better showing—so he's still impartial.

Les gets some big heifers too. Normally he breeds them at 2½ years, but he has one that was bred accidentally as a yearling and it was big enough to take it. This shows that the type of heifer he's raising, born in March or April, would be ready for breeding in the fall of the following year, if he chose to do it. And he's not running into difficulties when the cows deliver big calves. Only one of them had to be helped in giving birth last spring.

The native pasture has been good to Les. His top calf off the pasture that followed the flax made 1,300 lb. at 1½ years. However, with his rapidly increasing herd, he has to make his pastures even more productive. He has bought another half-section and can move the cattle to it while he breaks up the natural pastures, builds up their fertility and sows a good forage mixture. He is having the soil analyzed to guide him. The result, to put it mildly, should be interesting.—R.C. ✓

Nitrate Poisoning Danger

WATCH cattle herds closely for signs of nitrate poisoning, especially if you feed silage or green oat hay. There have been several reports of this poisoning in the West, including some deaths.

In periods of drought and high temperatures, as occurred last summer, many plants tend to build up concentrations of nitrates in the stems and leaves. The Manitoba Department of Agriculture warns that oats and sugar beet tops show particular tendencies in that direction. Wheat, barley and rye hay may also contain high concentrations of nitrates during dry seasons. If the nitrate level of dry hay is greater than 1.5 per cent of the dry matter, it is dangerous, and levels as low as 0.6 per cent may cause poisoning.

The first sign of nitrate poisoning is listlessness. This may be followed by muscular weakness, lack of coordination, convulsions, and bluish discoloring inside eyelids and mouth. Coma and death may result.

Mix hay that may be high in nitrates with forage low in nitrates, plus additional rations of high energy feed, such as ripe grain, and a vitamin A supplement. If cattle are severely affected by nitrate poisoning, call the vet. immediately. A common treatment is an intravenous dose of methylene blue. ✓

Salt Pork

SALT should be provided free-choice for pigs, or added at ½ lb. per 100 lb. of feed, says W. E. Dinusson of the North Dakota College of Agriculture. If pigs have not been given salt for a considerable time, give them smaller amounts at first, with plenty of water, to avoid salt poisoning. If salt is included in the protein supplement, 2 to 4 per cent can be added to the supplement.

Protect the salt from rain, as brine can poison pigs. But salt poisoning will not occur in pigs if there's plenty of fresh, clean water. ✓



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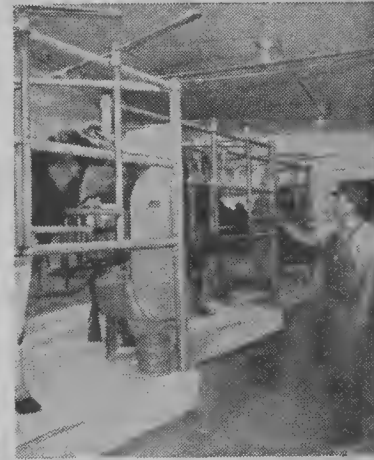
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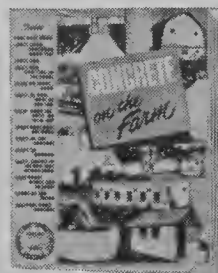
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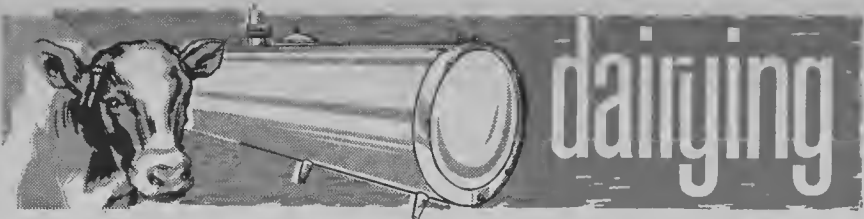
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Improved quality of hay makes a big difference for Briden Clark

WHEN Briden Clark states, "There is no alternative feed to good hay," he is speaking with a conviction that comes from experience. Last spring, when he ran out of good hay before the pastures were ready, his attempts to maintain production by feeding more grain to the dairy herd were futile. Production slumped by 10 per cent. Yet, when he has top quality hay available, dairy cows eat enough to get most of their nutrients from it. Protein content of that hay can be so high that a 14 per cent dairy supplement, rather than the usual 16 per cent, will balance the ration.

Clark is manager of Collins Bay Penitentiary Farm, Ont., and is responsible for the 80-cow Holstein herd. He also has to grow feed for the herd—a supply job that requires 300 acres for hay alone. Experience has taught him that good hay can save veterinary bills, cut feeding costs, and boost production. He figures that good hay boosts production by 400 lb. a day each winter.

But it's one thing to talk about the value of good hay, quite another to cut and cure and haul in that hay without losing many of its nutrients in summer rain storms. He says the equipment that enables him to do this—the hay dryer—is the best machine on the farm.

A big factor in hay quality is early cutting, and the hay dryer enables him to start the mowing machine about June 1, if the fields are dry enough to hold the equipment. With the dryer ready, he can bale up partly green hay and cure it under cover, where it is safe from loss. In 1961, when rain fell day after day, haymaking would have been at a standstill without the dryer. With it, he continued to make good hay.

Clark's dryer will cure 12 tons of hay a day. Even the cost for the fuel—about \$1.50 per ton of hay—is justified, he says, by the extra feed value.

Of course, Clark admits that the dryer is particularly suitable for his own situation, where plenty of labor is available on the prison farm. For with the dryer, those bales must be placed on the rack each evening, then removed the following day and stacked in the barn.—D.R.B.

POULTRY

Why Geese Are Worth Considering

THERE'S not much competition in raising geese, which may be because a goose lays few eggs and is harder to process for market than chicken or turkey. But there are a lot of points in favor of this bird, according to E. S. Merritt and J. R. Aitken of the Canada Department of Agriculture.

In a new brochure entitled "Raising Geese," these two researchers point out that geese graze pastures and keep weeds down in fields and orchards. They are hardy and need only the simplest windproof shelter in winter. Also, geese grow faster than any other bird. The brochure, Publication 848, gives further information on geese and is available free from the Information Division, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Movable Calf Stalls



Guide photos
Holstein calves in the special pens.

AT Carnation Farms, Carnation, Wash., young calves are kept in special pens until about 6 weeks of age before going to the regular calf barns. During this period they're fed on milk replacer and checked for any diseases, such as calf scours.

Individual stalls in each pen are built on a slat floor to keep the young animals clean and dry. The sides are fitted into slots in the floor and can be easily removed when pens are cleaned.



Bedding is scraped away to show slat floor and slots for sides of stalls.

Shift Range To Prevent TB

FOWL tuberculosis is found on some poultry farms where birds are raised on the same ground year after year. Dr. J. E. Lancaster of the Health of Animals Division, CDA, says that once the avian TB germ is established it's hard to eliminate. But here are some tips from Dr. Lancaster:

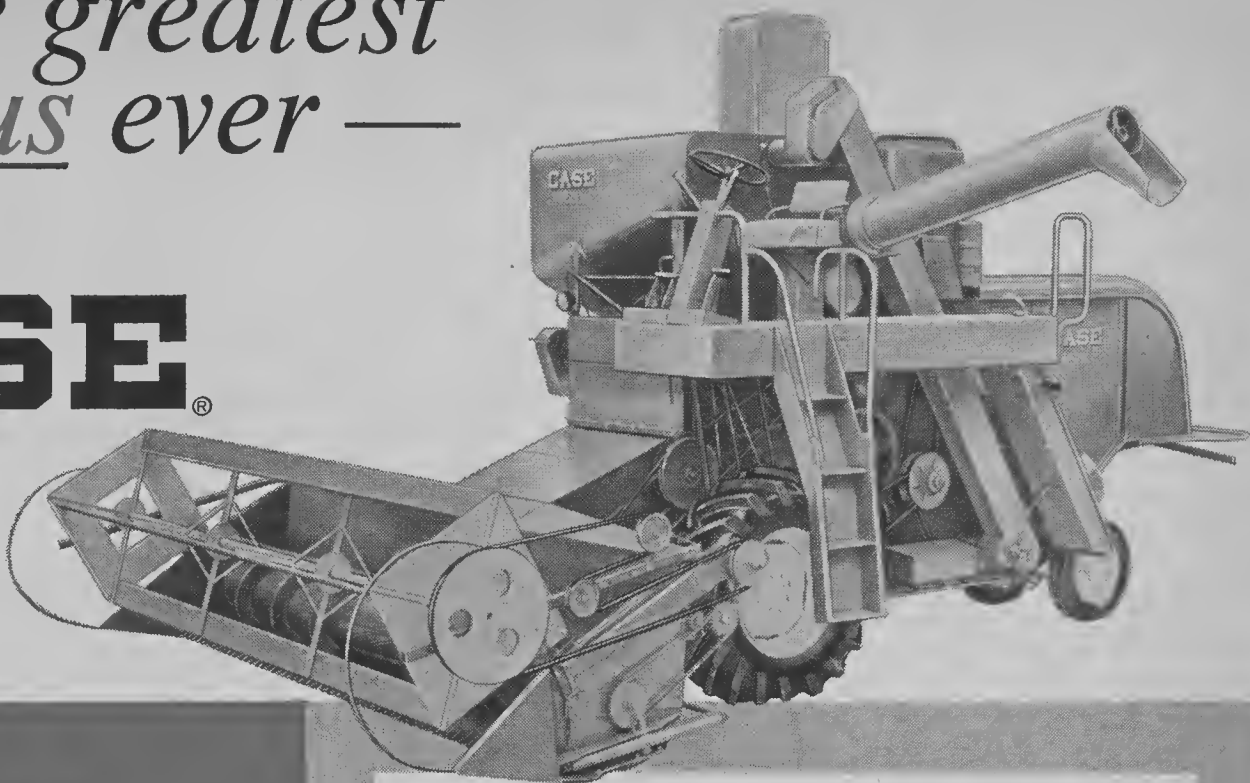
- If the poultry house is old or in poor repair, it should be burned. If infected building is kept, clean it with lye and disinfectant.
- Poultry range should be changed each year. Put used ranges into crops, not for livestock.
- Direct sunlight on the old range, and deep plowing of all litter and droppings, prevent infection being spread by wild birds visiting the site.
- All chickens culled for TB should be destroyed by burning or deep burial.
- When starting a new flock, use hatching eggs from disease-free sources.

More information on fowl tuberculosis will be found in Publication 1105, obtainable from the Information Division, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

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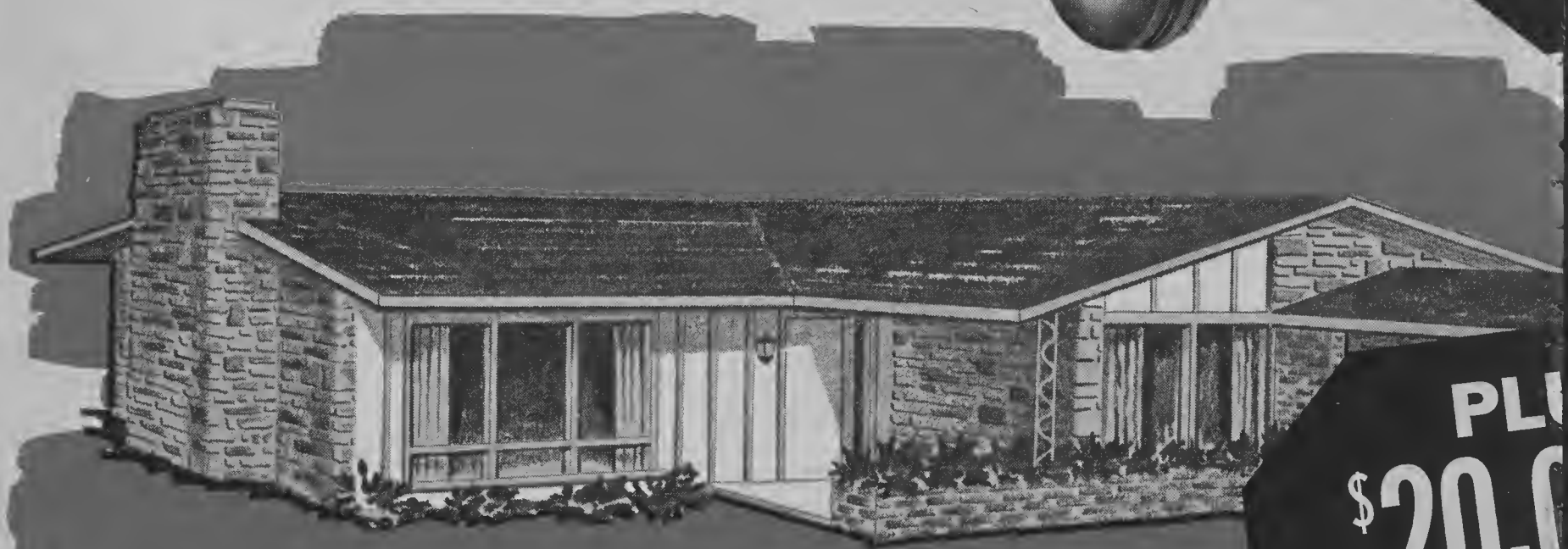
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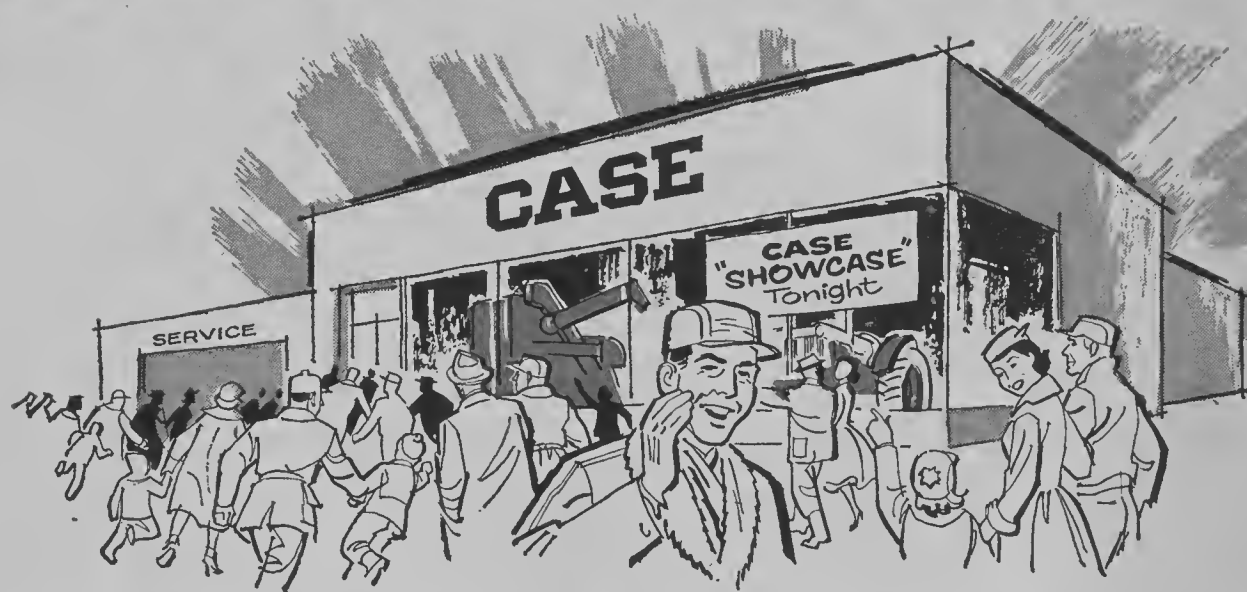
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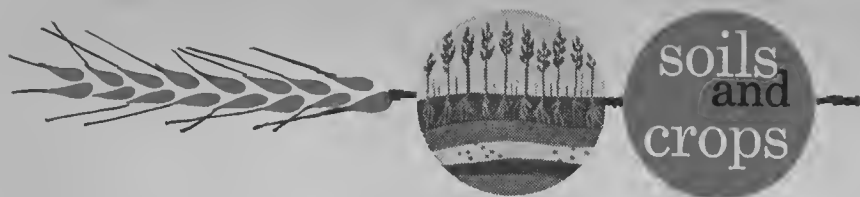
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Big Switch On Big Grain Farms

“WE wanted to break the monotony of riding the tractor around the big grain fields all day.” This is how John and Campbell Bradley explain their dramatic switch from grain to large-scale forage production on their farms in the Swift Current district of Saskatchewan. But, of course, their reasons go deeper than that.

Up to last year, the Bradley brothers had seeded 1,400 acres of hay and pasture crops, and planned to put in another 900 acres of forage in the next 2 years. In this way they are improving their grain quotas by spreading them over more non-grain acres, and are moving closer to their aim of establishing a 2-year feed reserve for 400 cattle. The switch also reduces their investment in machinery, and cuts the risk of loss from hail, frost, flood, or complete crop failure. Lastly, it spreads their work load more evenly, instead of having the rush periods associated with grain farming.

When they return grassland to grain, they expect it to be in better shape than before. In fact, they plan a rotation which will put all their fields in forage crops sooner or later.

Last spring, the Bradleys placed a record order for \$1,200 worth of seed for 300 acres under the provincial grass-legume seed program. With it they brought their forage acreage to 1,700 out of a total of 2,700 cultivated acres. The grass-legume crops are a 4-way mixture of brome, alfalfa, crested wheat, and usually 1½ lb. of clover per acre.

John Bradley says they have been successful in sowing grass seed with oats on summerfallow in one operation with a discer. They find there's less water erosion when they use the discer. The seeding is as shallow as possible, and it is double-harrowed. The first-year oat crop is



John and Campbell Bradley sitting on seed which they used to convert 300 acres of grain land into grass.

swathed and picked up with a combine. The straw is “round-baled” and left in the field until after the harvest rush.

Roy McKenzie, director of Saskatchewan's plant industry branch, recommends the drill for seeding grasses, placing the grain first in 1 ft. rows, and then seeding the grass crosswise. But he agrees that farmers can use the discer successfully if they take more care.

The Bradley's beef herd demands a minimum of labor. During winter, one man can handle enough bales to feed 200 cattle in about 1½ hours. The brothers claim there have been fewer calf losses since they started to feed alfalfa hay. Over 90 per cent of calves were weaned in 1960.

By crossing Shorthorn cows with Galloway bulls, the brothers have been getting steers up to 1,350 lb. at 2 years. They say that in temperatures down to 30° below, the Gallo-

ways can still rustle for feed instead of standing with their backs humped.

As can be seen, there's more to the Bradley operation than “breaking the monotony” and making things easier. And John Bradley gives another pretty good reason for the switch to grassland when he says “Our net returns from cattle and grass have been better than from wheat on the heavy land here in the flats.”—John McConnell. V

Weeds Steal Soil Moisture

THE rate of evaporation from soil depends chiefly on temperature, intensity of rainfall, and its distribution. Moisture that passes below the 5-inch depth in soils is considered largely out of the evaporation zone. Therefore, more moisture is conserved from frequent, recurring rains, or a rainfall of high intensity, than from an equal amount of rain received as light showers falling 5 or 6 days apart.

Large losses of moisture from the lower soil depths can occur through transpiration by weeds. Weed growth is the main factor that farmers can control in conserving moisture in summerfallow, says J. J. Lehan of the Swift Current Experimental Farm. Losses as high as 60 per cent in soil moisture conservation, and 50 per cent in subsequent crop yields have been recorded due to weed growth on summerfallow.

Experiments had shown that various implements, such as the Noble

blade, 1-way disc, cultivator, and plow, used alone or in combinations, conserve equal amounts of soil moisture if weed growth is kept down. V

Insects On the Increase

MANY of the most destructive insect pests of the Prairies increase during dry seasons. L. A. Jacobson of the Lethbridge Research Station, Alta., points out that grasshoppers have been steadily increasing in numbers and area since 1958. Pale western cutworms were a problem mainly in west-central Saskatchewan in 1959 and 1960, but this year the area of infestation increased to include southwestern and southern Saskatchewan, and many districts in southern Alberta. Further increases are forecast for 1962.

The stinkbug returned to prominence this year, after many years when it did little or no damage. It caused serious losses to grain in some districts of southern Alberta from 1936 to 1942, but the numbers decreased when rainfall was nearly normal. The stinkbug has two generations each year, and can increase rapidly when conditions are favorable. Several reports of infestations in grain were reported last July between Taber and Medicine Hat.

There are indications of a cycle of dry weather, which can mean further increases of insects. There's a need for vigilance in recognizing the presence of harmful insects and preparing to control them. V



Watch Out for Leaf-Roll Menace

APHIDS that overwinter on stored potatoes may spread the leaf-roll virus, according to N. M. Parks of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. The aphids can enter storage on other vegetables, so don't use the potato store as common storage, he says. Also, clean out all vegetable matter from the storage during the off-season.

Last spring, there was a severe infestation of aphids on small sprouts in a batch of potato tubers stored at 40°F. at Ottawa. The tubers were placed on shallow trays in lighted storage at 70° for green sprouting 3 weeks before planting. When the sprouts were ½" long, they were infested with both winged and wingless aphids—the *Myzus persicae* which are known to spread leaf-roll. They may become infected from diseased sprouts outdoors, or from sprouts of infected tubers in storage.

Keep a close watch for aphids in storage room, especially where certified foundation seed potatoes are kept. Aphids can enter the storage with the harvested potatoes and remain dormant, and winged aphids

can enter when the storage is opened in the spring. V

New Life for Straggly House Plants

WHEN a house plant becomes long and straggly, you don't have to discard it. A simple method of propagation called air layering can produce roots on shorter stalks, resulting in smaller but fully developed and attractive offsprings.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture says the plants most suitable for propagation in this way are erect foliage types, such as philodendron, rubber plant, dracaena, and dieffenbachia.

Here's the method:

1. Notch the stem where you want the roots to form. Keep the wound open with a stick or pebble.

2. Add a root-growth mixture and wrap wet sphagnum moss around the stem. Tie it tightly in place and cover with a piece of polyethylene bag.

3. When roots have formed, the shoot may be removed from the old stalk and planted. Be sure to keep the moss moist while the young roots are forming. V



[J. J. McConnell photos

Galloways on the Bradley farm, which has close to 2,000 acres of forage.

WORKSHOP

Grain Bagger

Cut the top off an old cream or milk can and nail it upside down to a stud inside the granary. Next,

you need something to hold a grain bag on the mouth of the can top. Use a length of thin steel strap, as used around boxes for shipping, and a rectangular ring, which is attached to one end of the strap. Wrap the grain bag around the mouth of the bagger, place the strap over the bag, thread the other end of the strap through the ring, pull it tight, and bend it back so it won't slip. The bagger (can top) should be nailed high enough to keep the bottom of the bag off the floor.—A.E.H., Man. ✓

TOP OF CREAM CAN NAILED TO POST
STEEL STRAP
SIMPLE FUNNEL FOR FILLING GRAIN BAGS

Calf Waterer

Cut a 100 lb. nail keg in half, and nail one half securely to the wall of a box stall where calves may be housed. You can then place a water pail in the keg for watering small calves, or other livestock. This prevents the pail from being tipped over, and it is also easily removed for filling. — L.A., Sask. ✓



HALF OF NAIL KEG NAILED TO FENCE OR WALL HOLDS NON-TIP WATER PAIL

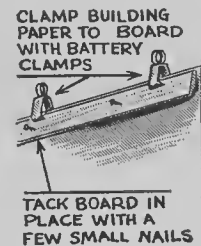
Shredless Tape

When using a roll of friction (electrician's) tape, the pieces often tear off shredded and ragged. Prevent this by laying the roll of tape on its side and using a knife to score several shallow cuts across each side. The tape will then tear off cleanly.—H.J.M., Fla. ✓

Applying Building Paper

When putting paper on a building, I cut the paper to the right length on the floor. Then I take a 4 in. strip of siding, the same length as the paper, and put the narrow end of the siding just below the top edge of the paper.

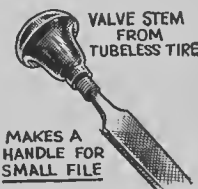
This is clamped in position with 4 or 5 battery clamps. Then I take the whole assembly to the wall and tack the board on with a few thin nails. In this way, I can put up paper in windy weather.—L.S., Alta. ✓



TACK BOARD IN PLACE WITH A FEW SMALL NAILS

File Handle

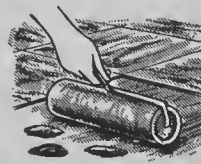
Remove the inner valve from a discarded valve stem of a tubeless tire, then force the valve stem over the end of a small file. This makes a soft, rubbery handle that is easy on the hands, especially during prolonged filing.—H.J., Pa. ✓



MAKES A HANDLE FOR SMALL FILE

Spreading Cement

To spread linoleum cement, try using a discarded paint roller. Distribute the cement in blobs here and there on the floor, and then spread it around with the roller. — M.McC., Que. ✓



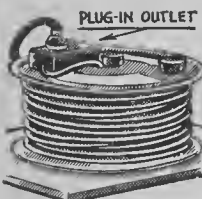
APPLY LINOLEUM CEMENT IN DAUBS—SPREAD WITH ROLLER

Safety Device

Grain augers can be dangerous, as I found out when I got the toe of my shoe caught in one. While I waited for help to stop the motor, I realized that if only I had a wire to reach the engine I could short it. My son suggested that we should attach a covered electric wire to the spark plug and run it along the auger pipe, with occasional wrapping to keep it in place, to the auger intake. This would enable us to short the engine in case of accident.—L.L.R., Sask. ✓

Cord Holder

If you need to keep an extension cord in place for storage, or for fast use without getting it in a tangle, this is the answer. Take a discarded wire reel, wrap the extension cord around it, and wire it to an electric outlet mounted atop the reel, as shown in the sketch. The reel should be free to run, of course. —H.J.M., Fla. ✓



OLD WIRE REEL STORES YOUR EXTENSION CORD

Sorting Hogs

A scoop shovel is a wonderful help when sorting hogs. Hold the shovel directly in front of the hog. It seems to look like a brick wall to him and will turn him every time. —W.G., Alta. ✓

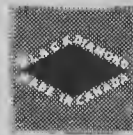
Plugged Water Line

When an underground water line is plugged with rust, I take a discarded 3/8" steel cable, a little longer than half the length of the water line, and push it down one end as far as I can. Then I connect an electric drill to the cable and drill it until the cable is all the way in. I do this again at the other end of the

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FARM BUILDINGS



[Guide photo] Hired man Chas. Hodgkinson agrees the homemade broom is first class.

Twig Broom Lasts Longer

HERE'S a homemade broom for the stable, and according to dairy farmer John Miller, it's better than any broom you can buy today. "Brooms you buy, don't seem to last more than a few weeks," says Miller. "Two of these will last us all year." Miller makes them up by cutting tough twigs from the brush that

grows up along fence rows. He wires the twigs together to form the broom, then drives the handle into the center to tighten it up.—D.R.B. ✓

In Favor of Creosote Treatment

LABOR accounts for about half the total cost of farm buildings. Pressure-treated lumber lasts several times longer under unfavorable conditions than untreated lumber, but costs less than double the price. Pressure-treated lumber is usually well-seasoned and uniformly graded. Put these facts together and the result is that treated lumber is usually more economical than untreated, says K. Pohjakas of the Swift Current Experimental Farm, Sask.

Untreated lumber, if grown on the farm, is useful for temporary structures. But untreated material seldom serves the purpose as well as treated lumber.

They found at Swift Current that fir lumber and plywood, pressure-treated with creosote oil, did not expand as much when wet, nor shrink so much when dried, as untreated lumber did. Lumber treated with creosote absorbed much less

New Job for Old Plow



[Guide photo] Mail box post made from plow was snapped by Guide editor Cliff Faulkner at John R. Peers' farm in the Sumas area of B.C.'s Lower Fraser Valley.

water than the untreated. This is important for flumes and other structures in which weight changes have to be avoided. Pressure-treated lumber also can make structures watertight. ✓

Clean Storage

IF you store much tractor gas around the farm, don't forget to drain and clean storage tanks at least once a year. This removes sediment and metal chips that flake off inside the tank. Also tilt the tank or drum slightly backward to prevent the residue from collecting near the spigot, and make sure the hose

nozzle is capped to keep dust from entering the tank. ✓

Hay Chute Danger

THERE'S any amount of evidence to show that hay and straw holes in floors are dangerous. For example, an Ontario boy of 15 was running along a threshing floor and fell through an open hay chute to a concrete floor. The drop was only 9 feet, but the accident was fatal.

Hal Wright of the Ontario Department of Agriculture suggests that you spend half an hour to build a safe trapdoor to cover the hay chute—you could be saving a life. ✓

WHAT'S NEW

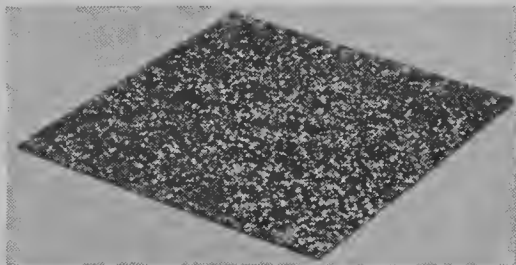


Udder Cloth

Made up of a network of fiber screen, the "Kleen-Udder" cellulose cloth measures 10 in. by 11 in. and is said to be long-lasting. The cloth can be squeezed, wrung and twisted without losing its shape. It removes soil, manure and grime, and can be used with all types of sanitizers, including boiling hot solutions. The manufacturers claim that the cellulose material is softer than paper or cloth. (Sparta Brush Co.) (357) ✓

Swine Floor Pad

Known as "Pamper Pad," this rubber flooring is said to act as a disease barrier in swine buildings, to be soft and easy to clean, to prevent lameness on account of its non-slip surface, and to eliminate straw bedding. A sanitizing agent is in the flooring. It is ¼ in. thick, and 24 in. by 24 in. (Pamper Pad Inc.) (358) ✓



Six-Place Fountain

A new six-place automatic water fountain is cleaned by pulling a flushing rod. It has stainless steel drinking troughs and fiber-glass lids. In addition to the six drinking places for cattle, it may be had with two drinking places for hogs. A pre-set thermostat controls the heating. (Fairfield Engineering and Manufacturing Co.) (359) ✓



Snow Scooter



The "Ski-Doo" has skis in front for steering, an endless track for traction, and can travel over snow at up to 25 m.p.h. It measures 106 in. long, 30 in. wide, and 32 in. high, and weighs 335 lb. (Bombardier Snowmobile Ltd.) (360) ✓

For further information about any item mentioned in "What's New," write to WHAT'S NEW Department, The Country Guide, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 21, Man., giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as—(17).

Indian Christmas Carol

by HELEN MARQUIS

Illustrated by
EMIL LALIBERTE



Autumn's adversity turned into a blessing at Christmas

OUR very best Christmas, of all good Christmases, came out of a frosted crop, Papa's broken leg, and Mamma's crushed hand. Most of all, it came from baby David.

But I'd better start at the beginning, which was the frost. It came the first week in August, when the grain heads were still soft between the fingers, and after a two-day rain. It struck so hard it left nothing but black ruin in its wake.

Papa called a family conference the next day, and explained how the loss of the crop would affect us. He looked awfully tired and older somehow, as he talked.

"This is a sacrifice year for all of us, and we've got to give up many things we would otherwise have enjoyed. We'll sell most of the cattle. The little feed left over from last year will carry about four head. We'll pay our taxes, buy groceries, school books, footwear. I want your ideas on how we'll manage other things."

Mamma spoke at once, and she was quite cheerful. "We'll make do in the clothing line and household linen. None of us needs anything urgently except footwear. We'll manage."

Papa put his hand on her shoulder, and we smiled at her. We were remembering the new coat with the fur collar she was supposed to get this year.

"Children?" Papa turned to us.

We whispered together for a long time till Papa grew impatient and said "Children" again, without the question mark. So we told him, feeling very noble and self-denying.

"We'll give up Christmas."

Mamma cried out, "Oh No!" in real distress.

Papa considered, then nodded.

"Very well. No Christmas." It was settled.

We felt let down. We were sincere in our sacrifice but at least we had expected to be praised and lauded for our unselfishness. At once we regretted our decision, but Papa had accepted it. And that was that.

FOR a few days we remembered it. But August was a long way from Christmas and almost anything could happen. September and October weren't bad, by then we had almost forgotten our no-Christmas intentions. But the first snowfall in November brought them back.

Papa fixed up our old sled, and no one mentioned that we had been promised a new one for Christmas. Mamma ripped out Papa's outworn blue sweater and knit us all mitts from the wool. Every time we put them on we were silently reminded of the glamorous ones we always found in our Christmas stockings. Margie began making a scrapbook for Papa out of the columns in the paper. I laughed at her until she cried, then I was sorry, and made up for it by begging papers and magazines from the neighbors to help her out. For an 8-year-old, she was doing such a good job that I was ashamed and started one of my own for Papa on handy-man tips. But my heart wasn't in it. I kept thinking of the nice things I could have bought Papa out of the ten dollars he always gave each one of us for our Christmas spending.

We planned on making Mamma a holder for her hot dish pads as soon as we finished the scrapbooks. But before we could start, Papa slipped on the ice at the well and broke his leg. While he was in the hospital, Mamma and I did the chores. Even after he came home we kept at it because Papa couldn't walk around outside in his cast, in the snow and cold.

Then Mamma got hurt. Old Mooley had tossed her head to prevent the stall chain being put on, and crushed Mamma's hand against the partition, with the stub of a horn. Mamma took her hand to the doctor. (Please turn to page 30)



Papa held his temper until Mamma left, then he began.

"This is the end — the absolute, incontestable end," he roared. "Broken legs —"

"Only one," Tim corrected.

"Now a busted arm —"

"Only her hand —" Tim was factual.

"No crop. No stove wood —"

"There's still six armfuls out there," Tim pointed out.

"Shut up!" thundered Papa.

Tim shut up. We all did. Even Papa.

After a minute, Margie suggested, "Why don't we ask Uncle Judd to help? He can do *anything*."

Papa considered while we watched anxiously. When he stumped to the phone and asked for long distance, we all breathed a happy sigh of relief.

Uncle Judd is Papa's brother and lives on a reserve where he is the government Indian agent. We love him very much. He always gives us a dollar for our birthdays and sends us beaded moccasins at Christmas.

When Mamma came home with her poor hand in a bandage — it wasn't broken after all, but badly cut and bruised — everything was arranged. An Indian and his wife would arrive tomorrow to help us out as long as we needed them, and Uncle Judd would tend to their wages.

Mamma said we should remember Uncle Judd in our prayers that night, and we did too, real loud, so Mamma would know we had obeyed.

THE next night about bedtime an old beat-up car drove into the yard. Its lights dazzled on the kitchen window before they flicked out. At the knock, Mamma threw open the door and Tim dodged behind the table and looked half-scared.

A man and woman stood on the doorstep.

"Mrs. Neilson?" asked the man, removing his hat.

"Come in. Come in," roared Papa, "We've been looking for you."

They stepped inside.

The man was dark, tall, good-looking. The girl, slender, and very

pretty. She carried a bundle that moved and whimpered.

All at once Margie was there, taking it from her.

"Oh! a baby! Mamma. Mamma, look! The beautiful baby!" Her face shone with delight.

Mamma said, "I'm so glad you could come."

Papa said, "You bet we are."

The newcomers breathed a sigh of relief, "So are we."

And that's how the Bairds came to our place to stay.

JONAS started in at once getting a supply of wood. Irene wouldn't let Mamma do anything, said Mamma looked as if she needed the rest. Irene would say, "Let's whisk up the supper dishes and we'll have a game of Old Maid." Or "I'll just whisk out this washing." We called her the "Whisker." I adored her.

Margie was all wrapped up in baby David. He was only two months old and seemed like a doll, just the right size to be carried around and cuddled. It was impossible not to spoil him.

Tim was the only one who held himself aloof from the Baird charm. He had never seen an Indian in all his six years, and he was taking no chances. But after a few days when he saw how we had mutually accepted one another, he sidled timidly up to Jonas.

"Are you really an Indian?" he wanted to know.

"Yep," agreed Jonas, "a real Indian."

"Then where's your feathered headdress and your buckskin breeches?"

Jonas answered seriously enough, "Left them at home. The headdress was molting some, and the new feathers hadn't grown in yet. Guess the early winter slowed things up a bit. And I tore those buckskins real bad the last time we were on a hunting party and Gramma had to patch them."

"Oh." It was an acceptance of the facts. Tim's eyes were on Jonas' sober face, so he didn't see the amused glances we exchanged, or hear Margie's giggle.

"Do you ever scalp people? I told Jimmy today in school a real Indian was at our place, and he said if I didn't do exactly what you said, you'd scalp me."

Papa roared "Tim!" but Jonas was thoughtfully rubbing his chin as if the question required deep consideration.

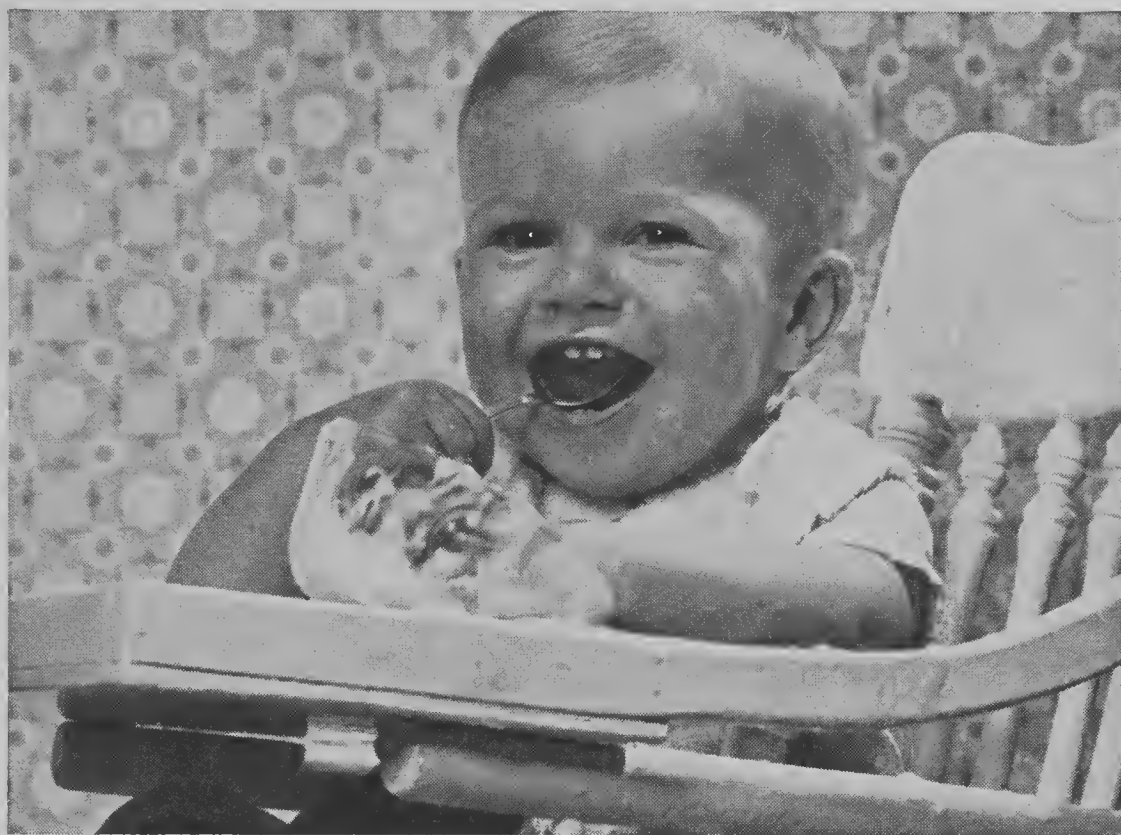
"Well now, it's been quite some time since I scalped anyone and maybe my hand is out of practice. But I'll tell you what, if you want to learn the trick I figger I could teach you. How about bringing your friend Jimmy over and we'll sort of practice on him?"

It was too much for the rest of us. We were roaring in delight, and Irene laughed so hard she nearly dropped baby David so that Margie had to rescue him.

Tim knew he had been spoofed, but it established a relationship with Jonas that never wavered in its admiration and loyalty. Next day at school he bloodied Jimmy's nose when Jimmy sneered "Injun lover," and got a wallop from Miss Reid for it, which made him prouder than ever of being Jonas' friend. Somehow, Tim felt he had fought for his Indian friend and that made them blood brothers, even though it had been Jimmy's blood that had been used for the ceremony.

ONE black, black day we dashed home from school yelling out our bad news before we were well into the kitchen.

"Mamma! Papa! There's going to



He will eat 7,000 breakfasts before he starts earning

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be no Christmas concert this year! Miss Reid said so. No Christmas concert! We've just got to have one. O Papa, do something! Please, please!" We were weeping, loudly and damply. Our world had collapsed around us. Everyone had a Christmas concert. Not to have one was unbelievable, unthinkable even. In a little while we were quieted sufficiently to clarify the matter, and between hiccups, interrupting and contradicting one another, explained.

Miss Reid was our authority. The killing frost had also killed our concert. People hadn't been able to pay their taxes, (Margie, indignantly, but we paid ours) so the school trustees had decided to cut out all extra expenses, and the Christmas concert topped the list. There was no money for gifts, or apples, or oranges, or candy, or concert material, or even a tree, (Tim resentfully, we've always cut our own tree on our own place. What do they mean—expense?) And as Miss Reid wasn't coming back after Christmas, the trustees told her she could close school earlier than usual, seeing as there would be no concert to practise for, and we had all our compulsory days' attendance anyway. (Me—more money saved.) And we'd like to know why we couldn't have a concert even if there were no presents, etc, etc, etc.

Finally, Papa made us stop. The trustees were put in there to run the school, he said, and they were doing what they thought best, and that was the end of it.

WE grumbled now about going to school. There was to be no concert, so what was the use of going? Even Miss Reid was affected and she didn't press discipline on us, or even lessons, vigorously. December came in drearily. After a week of it, school was closed.

That night we sat around dully, too listless to even get up a good scrap with one another. Mamma looked at our downcast faces and tried to rally our weak spirits. But we'd have none of it. We wallowed in our misery. But at last her coaxing drew a peevish flare from me. "If only we could have a concert. Only a bit of one. I'd do all the work. I'd clean the school afterwards. I'd trim the tree. We'd sing and act a play. Santa could come and talk to us. I know he couldn't bring gifts. But he'd be there and then it would be like Christmas. We gave up our own but we thought the school's would make up for it." I subsided, tears of frustration rolling down my cheeks.

Mamma looked at me helplessly.

Irene stopped her sewing, hesitated a moment, then ventured timidly. "Maybe you could do like we do on the reserve sometimes. Each family does one or two items on the program. Nobody knows what the others are doing, only Gramma. Everyone tells Gramma so there won't be ten 'I'm an old cow-hand's'! Once we had a concert at Easter and every last kid got up one by one and sang 'The Easter Parade'. We serve lunch after the concert and everyone has a good time."

Mamma hugged Irene enthusiastically.

"Irene, you've done it! We'll have our concert after all. Let's start planning." And everyone began talking at once.

Our Christmas concert was born.

Mamma and Papa took turns on the phone, and Irene close at hand, alert with paper and pencil.

First the chairman of the school board.

... Yes, the school would be available for a concert.

Then each parent.

... Sure a good idea. Kids seem kinda disappointed about no concert this year. Glad to help. Guess we could line up some entertainment.

... Lunch? Of course. Both cake and sandwiches.

... Candy? Sure. How many platefuls would you like?

... Mrs. Neilson, I no got the English for entertain. But I help. I wash, pull curtains. I make coffee. Many cups.

Even the stores in town got into the act.

... This is Parker, at the P. and S. Say, could you use a few boxes of oranges? Fine. Fine. Pick them up next time you're in town. Don't mention it. Glad to do it.

... Bittner speaking. There's a lot of ten-inch dolls left over from last year. Would they be of any use to you?

Mamma and Irene kept the sewing machine running madly for three days while they dressed the dolls.

Then old Mr. Mikeloff, crippled with arthritis.

... Workshop standing idle... lathe... tools... scraps of wood... maybe something for the boys.

Jonas and Papa were on their way. They came home at night, with sawdust drifting from their clothes, speckles of paint on their hands.

WE all had different ideas about our contribution to the program. Mamma thought we should sing. Papa sided with her because he couldn't carry a tune and knew we would vote him out of any chorus we chose. Tim and Margie wanted a play, preferably with an Indian in it. I didn't care what we did as long as I didn't have to speak in front of people.

It was Irene who settled it.

"Why don't you three children do a tableau of the nativity scene, while



In West Germany...

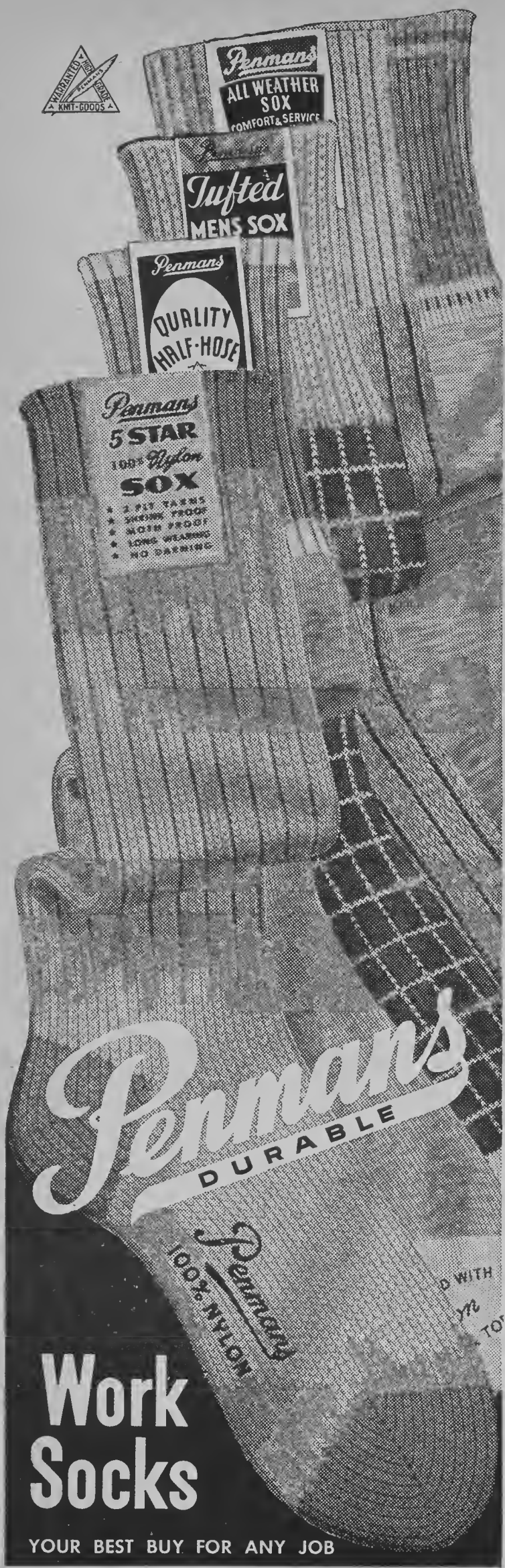
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your parents sing a Christmas hymn?"

And that was it.

Margie, draped in a white sheet, was to be the Virgin Mary. Being taller, the part of Joseph fell to me, with my brown braids hidden under our striped afghan. Mamma's home-spun bedspread was Shepherd Tim's cloak. Jonas made a crook for him to hold, and explained why one end was curved just so, and Tim broke it practising on a pig, and Jonas made another one and hung it high, threatening scalping if Tim so much as laid a finger on it. Tim said "Not at Christmas, Jonas, wait till after the concert," only half-believing him.

The days galloped by, and it seemed as if the concert night would never come. Then all at once it was there, and the school was jam-packed with people, all talking at once, or laughing, or calling greetings to one another. There weren't nearly enough seats, of course, so half the people had to stand up at the back. They made a solid wall. When the mothers had to take a child outside, the wall drew in on itself and formed a passageway so narrow it was difficult for even the thinnest mother to pass through, and almost impossible for tubby Mrs. Beasley.

WHAT a concert that was! In the years to follow, it became legend, something to look back upon with nostalgia, a tale to be relived over and over again in the happiest of memories.

There were the Huffmans singing old-time favorites, and we cheering like mad at the end of each. The Slonski boys in their old-country clothes doing a Cossack dance, leaping and twirling and kicking their heels. Peter Johanssen and his dialect songs — we laughed till we cried. Then Mr. Ure and his bagpipes, the grandest music in the world. The Hanrahans doing Irish jigs. Johnny Haley mourning out sad cowboy songs. Old Mrs. Wilder reciting a long beautiful poem about the Pied Piper of Hamelin. A tumbling act.

Some dialogues. It went on and on. Finally it was our turn.

PAPA arranged the sheaves and the homemade manger. Irene robbed us, and hung the tinsel star. Mamma laid the sleeping baby David in the manger.

"Here is your Babe, Virgin Mary," she breathed tenderly.

Margie bent over the manger. Her eyes, so like Mamma's, soft and loving on the tiny figure.

The curtains parted, and Mamma's and Irene's voices began "Away in a Manger."

The quiet that followed was so still you could hear the whimper from the manger. Necks craned as a tiny brown hand waved aimlessly in the air. At the next little cry, the small Madonna picked up the baby and cradled him against her shoulder. The tiny head lifted, black sloe eyes looked out of the dark face, then the eyelids fluttered shut and the head sank on the familiar shoulder. The little mother laid her cheek against the black head.

"There — there — Jesus, go to sleep." It was the tender croon of mothers all over the world.

"Jesus is an Indian baby!" It was a whisper in the quiet. But the startle faded from their eyes as they watched. Mamma and Irene began to sing "O Little Child of Bethlehem" and the audience rose and sang with them.

All at once, there was Jonas, his Bible open in his hand reading —

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And that was the best Christmas I ever had.

About the Author



Helen Marquis

ewan's Rosetown district. Grown up, she taught school for 5 years before she married.

Her first interest is her family—husband, 4 children, 9 grandchildren—and the activities which are most directly concerned with their well-being: sewing and gardening are among them.

Her community knows her well through her work as a 4-H leader and her services to horticultural society and agricultural board.

For personal satisfaction she "writes quite a bit" and this phase of her busy life included a course in fiction writing.

Of herself and her husband Mrs. Marquis says: "We still live on the farm and shall do so until the end because we can't imagine an urban life in our scheme of things." And no doubt this is the reason Helen Marquis conveys her feeling for and understanding of the country scene as successfully as she does in her story "Indian Christmas Carol."

Helen Marquis, of Wild Rose, Sask., who wrote this year's Christmas story for you, has lived on a farm most of her life. As a young girl she moved with her family from Sarnia, Ont., to Saskatch-

SAFE and Happy

KEEP an eye on home safety in the rush and bustle of Christmas preparation. Have you taken these precautions?

Remember that snowy boots slip hazardously on waxed floor surfaces. Provide an area near the door for the outdoor boots, with a chair on which to sit while taking boots off.

Remember, too, that youngsters are apt to poke into all the odd corners of the house. Be sure that drugs, cleaning compounds and poisons are well out of reach.

To keep fire hazards to a minimum, buy a fresh Christmas tree. A dry tree, because it's rich with pitch and resin, will flare up with the touch of a spark or flame. To test a tree for freshness, shake it. If needles drop off, it is too dry. Test the needles themselves; they should be soft, flexible and moist. Make sure the branches are pliable, and the limbs strong enough to support the lights and ornaments. A fresh tree is fragrant—smell it!

Back at home, cut off the butt end of the tree on about an inch slant. Set the freshly cut trunk in cold water and leave it there until time for trimming. Choose a spot out of traffic, away from fireplace and direct heat, and clear of doorways. Anchor the tree there securely, then fill the container with water. Add water each day as needed. Try to place the tree close enough to an electrical outlet so that no extension cord is needed. This way you will eliminate shock from a faulty cord, the difficulty of making a good connection, and the hazard of tripping over a long cord. If you must use an extension, check for frayed insulation, cracked outlets and broken plugs. Then check the tree lights. Exposed wires, damaged plugs, loose connections and broken sockets are danger signals. Buy and use only lights and cords approved by the Canadian Standards Association of Testing Laboratories (stamped CSA). Guard against overloading the circuit by plugging too many lights and fixtures into one wall plug outlet.

Use non-flammable tree decorations. Remove and store or destroy gift wrapping when Christmas packages have been opened; a careless match or spark could ignite it.

Disconnect all tree lights if the room is empty or you must leave the house. Tree lights can become overheated and will dry out the tree. ✓

Annual Report

*Yes, this has been a splendid year,
One of our best, I'd say.
No threat of sickness hovered near.
No trouble came our way.
The children all are growing well,
And each and every one
Would add a voice to mine, to tell
We never had more fun.
Each has had strength to do his part,
And each has done it fair.
Love still has bound us heart to heart,
With happiness to spare.
Summer was dry, with early frost;
Profits a little sheer;
But in the things that matter most
We've had a splendid year.*

—CLARENCE EDWIN FLYNN



SUCH A FESTIVE CAKE! Rich and colorful with its contrasting fruit, keeps for weeks and cuts easily into neat, bright slices.

CHRISTMAS WREATH CAKE

Line a straight-sided ring pan (9 inches wide, 3 inches deep) with 1 layer of foil or use 3 layers of heavy brown paper, the top layer greased. Wash and dry thoroughly

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups Sultana or other light-colored seedless raisins

Prepare

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped pitted dates
1 cup mixed red and green candied or well-drained maraschino cherries, halved

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup finely-diced candied pineapple—red, green and yellow

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup broken pecans
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flaked or cut-up shredded coconut

Sift together into a bowl

$3\frac{1}{2}$ cups once-sifted pastry flour or 3 cups once-sifted all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons Magic Baking Powder
1 teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground mace

Add prepared fruits and nuts, a few at a time, mixing with finger tips until all fruits are coated with flour.

Cream

1 cup butter

Gradually blend in

$1\frac{1}{4}$ cups fine granulated sugar

Add, one at a time.

4 eggs

beating in well after each addition.

Mix in

1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Add fruit-flour mixture, part at a time, combining well after each addition.

Turn batter into prepared pan and spread evenly. Decorate with candied fruits and nuts. Bake in a slow oven, 300° , $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 hours.

Brush top of hot cake with a mixture of

2 tablespoons corn syrup
1 tablespoon brandy or water

Cool completely, then store in a covered tin or crock.

Yield: One deep ring cake.

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Ogilvie

NOURISHES THE NATION

Home and Family

The Country Guide's magazine for rural women

Christmas Comes Calling

CHRISTMAS comes, calling us with the miracle of its music, its memories, its message. Time hasn't dimmed the meaning of the Christmas message: it's the same today as it was centuries ago when wise men followed a star to Bethlehem. Why does it still touch our human hearts with its good tidings of great joy? Is it because at Christmas we're so much concerned with giving that we involuntarily renew our faith in it?

As we make our homes ready for this greatest of family festivals, we sometimes complain about its drain upon our time, our energies, our pocketbooks. Sometimes, in its bustle, we may momentarily forget the real meaning of the Christmas message. Yet it asks only that we offer the imperishable gifts—love, kindness, helpfulness, compassion, forgiveness. They're to be found in simple acts: when thoughtful people visit older folk whose world has grown smaller with their years; when young people use some of their own precious time to trim a tree for those less fortunate; when family members teach little ones the Christmas story.

Gifts such as these create a true Christmas for ourselves and others by attuning to the real meaning and message of the season and with Charles Dickens we, too, know Christmas "as a good time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time . . . when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely . . . and say, God bless it!"—E.F. ✓



Miller Services photo



[Luoma photo



[D. Clemson photo

IN THE KITCHEN

Christmas Candies

by GWEN LESLIE



[Jell-O photo]

YOU can count on eager volunteers to help with the Christmas candy-making, and doubtless, they'll be even more eager to form a taste panel! Some candy recipes are especially suited to the hand of the youthful helpers—ones such as the Snow Mounds, Apple Delights and Chocolate Clusters. These recipes need no careful watching of temperature.

The temperature of the syrup for Pull Toffee does need to be watched, but all the family can join in the fun of an old-fashioned toffee pull when the candy mixture has been suitably cooled.

Chocolate Frosted Cream

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 c. lightly packed brown sugar | 1 c. seedless raisins |
| 1 c. granulated sugar | 1 1/4 c. sifted icing sugar |
| 1 T. corn syrup | 1 oz. unsweetened chocolate |
| 1 1/4 c. rich milk or light cream | 2 tsp. butter |
| 3 T. butter or margarine | 1 T. boiling water |
| 2 tsp. vanilla | 1 unbeaten egg yolk |

Measure brown and white sugars, corn syrup, a few grains of salt, the milk or cream, and the 3 tablespoons butter into a saucepan. Mix thoroughly. Heat to the boiling point, stirring until the sugars are dissolved. Then boil rapidly to 238°F. or until a little syrup dropped in cold water will form a soft ball. As syrup granulates on the side of the saucepan, wash it down with a fork wrapped with wet cheesecloth.

Cool the syrup in a pan of cold water, undisturbed, to 120°F. on the thermometer (a little warmer than lukewarm). Stir in 1 1/2 teaspoons of the vanilla and beat until the mixture just begins to thicken. Add raisins and beat until thick and candy begins to

lose its gloss. Draw the fudge quickly into a mass and spread evenly in a buttered 8-in. square pan.

Measure the icing sugar and a few grains of salt into a bowl. Melt chocolate; stir in butter and boiling water. Add chocolate mixture to icing sugar. Stir in remaining 1/2 teaspoon vanilla and egg yolk. Beat well; spread over candy in pan. When firm, mark in squares.

Pull Toffee

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 1/2 c. molasses | 3 T. butter |
| 1 1/4 c. sugar | 2 T. vinegar |

Combine molasses, sugar, and butter in saucepan and stir over medium heat until sugar is dissolved and butter melts. Boil mixture gently until candy thermometer reaches 290°F. or until syrup will form long brittle threads in cold water. Remove from heat and add vinegar. Pour into buttered pie plates to cool. When cool enough to handle, butter your fingers and pull until toffee is spongy and golden yellow. Cut in small pieces with scissors. Makes about 6 dozen pieces.

Chocolate Clusters

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1/2 lb. sweet chocolate | 1 c. whole peanuts or raisins |
| 2/3 c. sweetened condensed milk | |

Melt chocolate in top of double boiler over boiling water. Remove from heat. Add sweetened condensed milk and peanuts or raisins and mix well. Drop by the spoonful on a greased cookie sheet. Cool for several hours before serving.

Uncooked Fondant

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1/2 c. soft butter | Grapes, tangerine |
| 5 c. icing sugar (about) | sections, dates, walnuts, pecans, etc. |
| Flavoring | |
| 1 egg | |

Beat butter with electric or rotary beater until fluffy. Gradually beat in

1 1/2 cups sifted icing sugar. Add egg and beat thoroughly. Add additional sugar until mixture is stiff. Place the candy mixture on an icing-sugar-sprinkled pastry board and knead in remaining sugar until desired consistency is reached.

Divide candy in four portions, then add one of the following to each portion: 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon vanilla, 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon almond extract, 1 teaspoon grated orange rind, 1 to 2 drops peppermint flavoring.

Vanilla Fondant. Remove pits from dessert dates and stuff with fondant. Roll in fine sugar if desired. Or roll fondant into small balls and press between walnut or pecan halves.

Almond Fondant. Press a thin coating of fondant around red or green maraschino cherries.

Lemon or Orange Fondant. Press a thin layer around malaga grapes, drained canned or fresh tangerine, orange or grapefruit sections.

Peppermint Fondant. Roll fondant on a sugared surface; cut with small round

or fancy cutters. Decorate with bits of colored peel.

Note. Fondant may be colored by kneading in food coloring. This basic fondant recipe may be used for mint patties and dipped chocolates.

Apple Delights

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 pkg. fruit-flavored jelly powder | 1/3 to 1/2 c. chopped almonds or 3/4 c. broken walnuts |
| 1 c. apple sauce | icing sugar |
| 1 c. sugar | |

Heat applesauce in a saucepan. Dissolve jelly powder in the hot applesauce, then add sugar and stir over low heat until dissolved. Remove from heat and add nuts. Spoon into a greased 10 by 5 by 3-in. loaf pan. Chill. When firm, cut in 1-in. cubes and roll in icing sugar. Let stand overnight at room temperature to dry. Roll again in icing sugar, then store between layers of waxed paper, two deep. Makes about 3 doz. candies.

Snow Mounds

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1/2 c. sugar | 1/4 tsp. peppermint flavoring |
| 2 T. water | 1/4 lb. moist shredded coconut |
| 2 T. light corn syrup | |
| 16 marshmallows | |

Stir sugar, syrup and water in a small saucepan until sugar dissolves. Heat to boiling point, then boil 2 to 3 min. Cool slightly, add peppermint flavoring. Spear a marshmallow on a toothpick or skewer, dip in syrup to coat, and roll in coconut. Repeat with remaining marshmallows.

Key to Abbreviations

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| tsp.—teaspoon | oz.—ounce |
| T.—tablespoon | lb.—pound |
| c.—cup | pt.—pint |
| pkg.—package | qt.—quart |

Freeze a Dessert

A FROZEN dessert is a boon to the busy cook, and provides a refreshing follow-up to a hearty dinner. Perhaps your fruit bowl will yield mellow-ripe bananas for a fruit sherbet, or you might like to personalize commercial ice cream by layering it in tall glasses with two homemade sauces.

Four Fruit Sherbet

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 2 c. mashed bananas | 1 c. milk |
| 1/4 c. lemon juice | 1/4 c. maraschino cherry juice |
| 1/2 c. orange juice | 1 tsp. grated orange rind |
| 1/2 c. golden corn syrup | 1/2 c. coarsely chopped maraschino cherries |
| 1/8 tsp. salt | |
| 1 egg white | |
| 1/2 c. sugar | |

Mash bananas thoroughly with lemon juice. Add orange juice, corn syrup and salt. Beat egg white stiff but not dry; gradually beat in sugar. Fold egg whites into the fruit mixture. Slowly stir in milk. Add cherry juice, orange rind and chopped cherries. Pour into freezer tray and freeze at fast-freezing setting until almost firm. Turn into a chilled bowl and beat with a rotary beater. Return to freezer tray and freeze firm, beating mixture once with a spoon. When frozen, the sherbet may be stored at a freezing compartment setting between fast and normal freezing. Yields 1 qt. sherbet.

Party Parfait

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Vanilla Ice Cream | Coffee Caramel |
| Fudge Sauce | Sauce |

Fill dessert glasses about one-third with vanilla ice cream. Spoon in a layer of Coffee Caramel Sauce, then a layer of Fudge Sauce. Fill with ice cream. Add more Fudge Sauce, then top with whipped cream. Garnish with a sprinkle of instant coffee or shaved chocolate.

Coffee Caramel Sauce

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 3/4 c. brown sugar, firmly packed | 1/4 c. butter |
| 1 c. sugar | 1/3 c. cream |
| 2/3 c. light corn syrup | 1/2 tsp. vanilla |
| | 1/2 c. strong coffee |

Combine first 5 ingredients in a saucepan. Cook, stirring, until sugar dissolves. Cook without stirring to 236°F. or syrup will form a soft ball in cold water. Cool slightly. Stir in cream, vanilla and coffee; mix well. Makes about 2 cups sauce.

Fudge Sauce

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4 oz. unsweetened chocolate | Two 6-oz. cans evaporated milk |
| 1 c. sugar | 2 tsp. vanilla |
| 2 T. butter | |

Melt chocolate over hot water. Gradually stir in sugar. Add butter; stir until melted. Slowly stir in evaporated milk. Cook over hot water, stirring often, until thickened. Add vanilla and cool. Makes about 2 cups sauce.



[Campfire photo]

Temptation is sweet when you offer bowls of your own homemade candies.

Holiday Time



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No. 9909. Self-fabric cording trims a basque bodice above a full gathered skirt. If desired, omit cording on slim skirted version. Sub-teen 8S, 10S, 12S, 14S; 50¢.



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No. 2125. This lined jacket features welt and flap pockets, optional top stitching. Back-belted vest pattern is included. Men's 36, 38, 40, 42, 44; 50¢.



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[Guide photos]

Perry Park is a private park with a public welcome where majestic elms reign over evergreen plantings and native trees and shrubs.

Left: Sentinel-like elms guard the driveway to the Paterson home and give way to lawns and gardens that reflect colorful use of such favorite flowers as snapdragons, verbena, and starred petunias.

Perry Park . . . one man's gift

Working with nature, David Paterson transformed a wilderness into a wonderland

IN Westbourne, Man., when you hear children shout "let's go to the park," they mean Perry Park, an eight-acre sanctuary on David Paterson's farm. You'll find it on the outer fringe of the village where the White Mud River loops sharply in a hairpin bend to form a park-like peninsula. It's a favorite place for the village children; and it's gaining favor as an overnight campsite for travelers over Manitoba's Highway No. 4 a few yards away.

From the time he bought the farm property,



An evergreen planting forms an appropriate backdrop for the miniature of the little old church in the wildwood of Sunday school days.

David Paterson felt strongly that he and his family should not keep the towering elms on the peninsula for their enjoyment alone. He decided then to make the area into a roadside park as circumstances allowed. In 1942 he and Mrs. Paterson made two important decisions: one was to build a new home at the peninsula's neck; the other, to proceed with plans for the park. Some time later it was named Perry Park — Mr. Paterson's tribute to his wife, Elsie Perry Paterson.

The park development didn't come easily. Lots of hard work went into clearing and planting. Floodwater has pushed out over the park more than once, to damage its trees, grass and stonework. This past year, drought drained some of its usual greenness. Still the park's natural beauty and peaceful quiet drew more overnight campers this year than ever before; and, all summer long, children from close by had a green place in which to play.

The Patersons make only one request of picnickers and campers: that they clear up their litter before they leave. Otherwise, Perry Park is free to all — irrespective of race, color, creed — in keeping with Mr. Paterson's own philosophy that the things you give away are really the only things you keep.

Regular visitors usually find something new in the park each year. One year, for example, it was the stone cairn which marks the site as a place where once Indians crossed the river to make their camp. Another year, fruit trees. This year Mr. Paterson put in a new park sign to replace an older one damaged by floodwater. Next year visitors will be able to see Perry Dam, a PFRA

project a short distance from the park site. It will control water flow within the park area and also provide water for 600 head of cattle being pastured to the west.

The Paterson home—a modern adaptation of an English cottage—overlooks the park. Flower beds surround the house and flow in soft curves among velvet lawns. Here, as in the park, decorative touches demand attention: the tiny pond where frogs sometimes sing to ducks floating silently on its surface; the graceful pedestal fountain (built this year) with fluted edge ready to spill a watery filigree; the brass bell, reminder of the last of the steam engines on a stand that is gracefully faced with hand-polished willow roots.

OLD favorites predominate in the flower beds: cosmos (because it's Elsie Paterson's favorite), clumps of bouncing bet, iris, snow-on-the-mountain. For their color, quantity of bloom and hardiness, Mr. Paterson uses a lot of verbena and single petunia varieties. And tucked away in one corner there is the traditional rose garden.

While Perry Park is Mr. Paterson's hobby, the production of high quality registered seed is his business. For this he was made a Robertson Associate two years ago. Another honor was the province's Citizen of the Year award for his continuing interest in people and the community.

Now winter's snow mantles the grounds of Perry Park. But no matter. The community's children know where there's a good place to slide and so . . . they're off "to the park" to enjoy this man's gift to their community. V

Right: Indians no longer cross the White Mud River here. Instead a model lighthouse looks out over a dam to regulate water flow.

From her pedestal the bashful girl — a bronze figure — watches over the children who make the park a year round playground.



by ELVA FLETCHER



Mr. Paterson gives the park a gift each year. Cumulatively these add up to homemade benches, picnic tables and fireplace; merry-go-round, swings and slides; rest rooms and water supply. Some families come to picnic; others enjoy the overnight camping privileges.



These Manitoba elm tree trunks, preserved because they were giants of the forest, become a bulletin board for the park's simple rules.

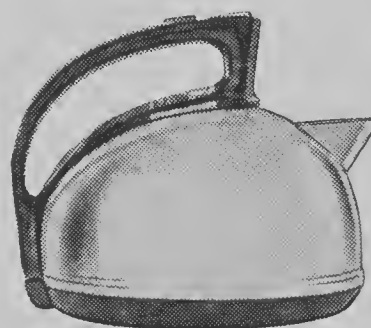


Donations come freely to the wishing well. The Patersons double the amount and bank it in a special Wishing Well account. So far it has provided over \$4,000 to help crippled and handicapped children.



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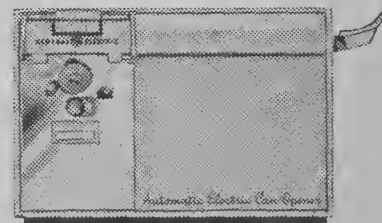


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Here's the modern way to open cans. Just place can in position, touch bar, and electric can opener completes the job in a jiffy. Can and lid are left smooth and safe. Ceramic magnet holds lid so that it cannot drop into food. Electric Can Opener may be mounted on kitchen wall or used right on the counter, with legs attached.



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RASPBERRY Butterfly BUNS

Raspberry Butterfly Buns, chock full of appetite appeal!

RASPBERRY BUTTERFLY BUNS

You'll need:

- 1/2 c. milk
- 1/4 c. granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 c. shortening
- 1/2 c. lukewarm water
- 1 tsp. granulated sugar
- 1 envelope Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast
- 2 well-beaten eggs
- 3 1/4 c. (about) pre-sifted all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsps. soft butter or Blue Bonnet Margarine
- 1/3 c. thick raspberry jam

1 Scald milk; stir in the 1/4 c. sugar, salt and shortening. Cool to lukewarm.

2 Meantime, measure lukewarm water into a large bowl; stir in the 1 tsp. sugar. Sprinkle with yeast. Let stand 10 mins., then stir well. Stir in lukewarm milk mixture, eggs and 1 1/4 c. of the flour. Beat until smooth and elastic. Work in sufficient additional flour to make a soft dough—about 1 1/2 c. Knead on floured board until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl. Grease top. Cover. Let rise in a warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk—about 1 1/4 hours. Punch down dough. Turn out and knead until

When you bake at home Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast makes light work of it, and gives best results. Try this step-by-step recipe for these light and tender

smooth. Divide dough into 2 equal portions. Cover with a tea towel; let rest 10 mins.

3 Roll out one portion of dough into a rectangle 13 1/2 x 8 inches. Spread with half of the soft butter or margarine and half of the raspberry jam. Beginning at a long edge, roll up jelly-roll fashion. Cut roll into nine 1 1/2-inch slices.

4 Using floured handle of a wooden spoon placed parallel with the cut edges, press down through each roll as far as possible. Arrange the rolls, well apart, on greased cookie sheet. Repeat with other portion of dough. Grease tops. Cover. Let rise until doubled in bulk—about 45 mins. Bake in a mod. hot oven (375°) 15 to 18 mins. Spread warm buns with the following Confectioners' Icing and, if desired, sprinkle with sliced and toasted Brazil nuts. Makes 1 1/2 dozen buns.

Confectioners' Icing: Combine 1 1/4 c. sifted icing sugar, 1/4 tsp. vanilla and sufficient milk to make a rather thick icing.

Get this beautifully illustrated, full colour recipe booklet, "When you Bake — with Yeast". Send 25¢ in coin or 10 empty Fleischmann's Yeast envelopes to:

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Snowflake

by BETTY RIVERA

THE cold, prankish wind frisked through the sky spanking the white clouds into fluffy pillows the day Snowflake, Santa's youngest reindeer, arrived at Christmas Village. Everyone at the village tried to make his first day away from the North Pole a happy one for him. Santa's elf-helpers, Skippy and Tippy, invited him to watch them make toys for Santa in their workshop. Rudolph, who came to the village each year, showed him the village creche where the Christ Child



(Geller illustration)

waited in his manger bed. But, now that the day was over and the village sleepy-still, Snowflake was so lonesome he sniffled in the snow.

When the village clock chimed midnight, Snowflake was still wide awake. He tried singing Jingle Bells to himself as he had at the North Pole when he couldn't fall asleep right away. He even tried counting the stars, but they were so fidgety that, when he was on the verge of counting one, it would blink right out of sight. Somehow, too, the stars seemed to be much farther away than they were at the Pole.

The moon peeked at him from above a tree, but when Snowflake whispered hello to him just as he did each night at home, the Moon didn't even smile. Snowflake began to think that perhaps the Moon couldn't hear him whisper because of the strange lump that seemed to be growing bigger and bigger in his throat. Almost as big as a snowball.

A teardrop, feeling as big and shivery as an extra-sized raindrop in November, rolled right down to the very tip of Snowflake's nose. It stayed there until the Wind, which had become blustery, rudely splashed it to the ground beside Snowflake. Snowflake was ashamed and he was glad the Moon had gone behind a

cloud and would not know how small and alone he felt here at the village.

Then, Snowflake heard something that made his ears perk right up. Was someone calling him? But who? Everyone was sleeping.

Yes. There it was again. Someone was calling his name. A very small voice. So small you could just about be sure you heard it.

Suddenly, Snowflake's attention was drawn to the creche by a soft, pale blue light which covered the Christ Child like the morning mist. He beckoned to Snowflake with His tiny hands, and called softly, "Snowflake. Snowflake."

The Christ Child kept beckoning Snowflake toward Him and smiled when Snowflake leaped over the railing of the creche and knelt with bowed head before Him. The Child placed His tiny hand upon Snowflake's soft, warm throat, and smoothed away the great lump that had been there.

Then, the Child smiled once again at Snowflake and whispered to him, "Snowflake, you mustn't feel lonely here. You can always come to talk with Me just the way people do. You have an important job to do here at the village. For it is most important that grown-ups and all animals, too, be kind and loving to children. Children love a little reindeer like you, Snowflake, and you'll see how happy you make them by being here when they come."

SNOWFLAKE noticed that while the Christ Child was talking to him both Mary and Joseph, His parents, had lifted their heads from their prayers to listen to Him and to smile a welcome to Snowflake.

Snowflake noticed, too, that the creche was warm and cozy, because the oxen and lamb had crowded close to the Holy Family to keep them warm throughout the wintery night with the heat from their bodies. Snowflake began to feel so drowsy and good inside that he was grateful to the Christ Child when He suggested that Snowflake lie down in the sweet-smelling straw beside Him and sleep.

In the morning, when Snowflake was awakened by Rudolph, he was amazed to find that he was sleeping in his own home and not in the creche beside the Christ Child. And, when Rudolph asked Snowflake if he had slept well his first night away from the Pole, Snowflake quickly decided that he would tell no one of what had happened during the night.

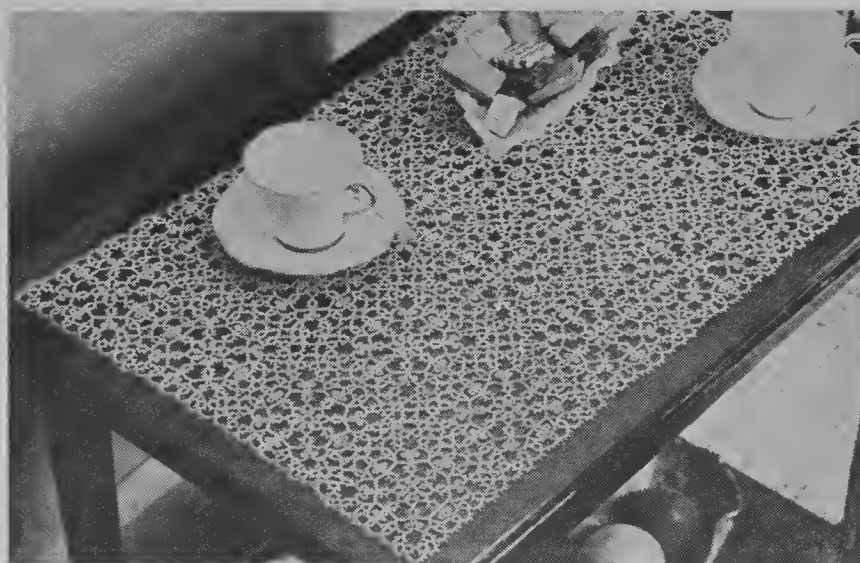
He decided to keep it as a warm secret tucked away in his heart. He also decided to keep the precious piece of straw from the creche that was still clinging to his right foot to remind him to go to the Christ Child, his Special Friend, whenever he was lonely or unhappy. V

HANDICRAFTS

Squares and Circles

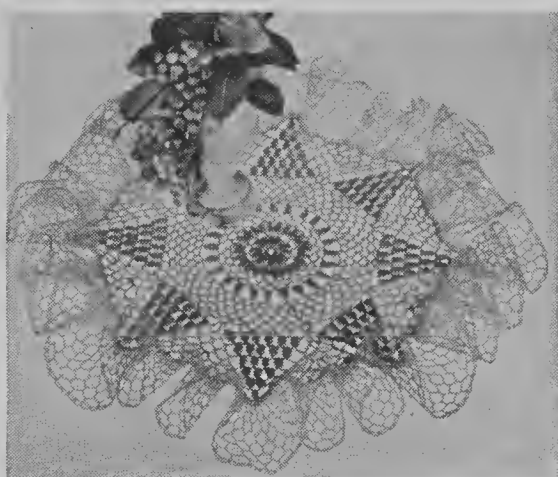


Six motifs,
5 in. square, make
up a knitted
place mat 10¼ in.
by 15¼ in.
Order Leaflet No.
K-P.K. 1291, 10¢.

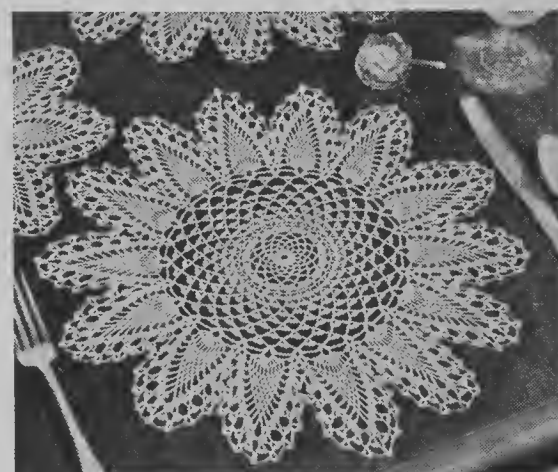


The tatting instructions for this lacy trolley cloth are on Leaflet No. T-5646, 10¢. Made of 4-in. square motifs, the finished cloth measures 16 in. by 24 in.

Popcorn Points
is the name
of this ruffled
doily.
Diameter is 15 in.
Order Leaflet
No. C-S-939, 10¢.



Leaflet No. C-7865,
10¢, features
a pineapple design
in 3 sizes:
a centerpiece,
a place doily and
a glass doily.



For handicraft patterns pictured above please address your order to The Country Guide Needlework Dept., 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 21, Man.

Our Readers Suggest

If you wax the shovel before going out to shovel snow, the snow will not stick to the shovel. — Mrs. M. Cann, Regina, Sask.

When artificial flowers become dusty and soiled, place them in a paper bag (flowers faced down) with a handful of finely ground table salt. Shake and flowers will come out very clean and fresh looking. — Mrs. E. K. Anderson, Kenora, Ont.

A rag soaked in vinegar and applied while the stove is cold will shine a steel-topped stove without too much elbow grease. — Mrs. Ernest King, Duvernay, Alta.

To store poultry for a long time and save freezer space, first freeze the bird thoroughly. Then dip several times in ice water to form a thick layer of ice. Wrap well and place in the snow.

Do not warm frozen fish to scale them; they peel like bark when frozen. Use a good heavy knife to strip them. Scale fish on newspaper for a quick cleanup. — Mrs. Sam Kalenchuk, Lady Lake, Sask.

If you have chrome trimming around both counter and table edges where the food chopper will not fit, pull the kitchen table apart where the extension leaf goes and attach the chopper on the edge. — Mrs. P. Nickason, Fort Assiniboine, Alta.

If you warm furniture oil and polishes by placing the bottle in warm water, you will find that the warmed

solution penetrates more easily and you will use less.

To clear clogged sinks, sprinkle ¼ cup baking soda down the drain and pour in ½ cup vinegar. Cover tightly for 5 minutes. Rinse with warm water.

Strips of bacon are usually so firmly pressed together that they can't be separated for frying without tearing or shredding. To overcome this, roll the package gently between your hands, first one way and then the

other, before opening it. The bacon strips will separate easily. — Mrs. C. Law, McKague, Sask.

If brown sugar has hardened, put it in the freezer for a day or two. It will be soft after it thaws out. — Mrs. Bessie Hinton, Cody, Nebr.

A hard-to-remove screw will come out more readily if several drops of vinegar are allowed to penetrate the wood. This is a better method than oil. Screws and nails will run into wood much more easily if a little oil or soap is applied to them.

To sharpen scissors draw the cutting edges back and forth on a piece

of glass or cut sandpaper with them. — Mrs. Robert Storey, Saskatoon, Sask.

Paper that sticks to a varnished table top can be removed without marring the surface. Just rub the area with olive oil. — Mrs. R. T. Evans, Lightwoods, Sask.

If you wish tomatoes and apples to keep their shape after baking, bake them in muffin tins. — B. Greschuk, Two Hills, Alta.

When you need soft butter in a hurry, use a vegetable peeler to shave thin curls from a firm block. They'll soften quickly and spread smoothly.

To soften marshmallows that have become hard, place in an airtight plastic bag and dip in hot water. — Mrs. Adele Kruszelnicki, Vanguard, Sask.

Place a piece of net over large holes in socks when mending. Tack it down and darn through the net. It makes a neat job and holds the sock in shape.

You can speed up the task of ripping out seams. Secure one side of the material under the pressure foot of the sewing machine and the stitches can be cut with a razor blade. — Mrs. D. Brown, Stony Plain, Alta.

We're all interested in a better, quicker and easier way of doing household tasks. Will you share your short cuts with other readers? Of course we're most interested in your own ideas. In case of duplication, the letter received first is selected. Only those letters accompanied by return postage can be returned. You will be paid \$1 for each suggestion accepted. — Ed.



[B.C. Electric photo

For efficient storage and ease in handling small containers, this kitchen cupboard features a step-like shelf arrangement which can be easily made in the farm workshop. You can tailor the shelves to your storage needs.

Christmas Stockings You Make Yourself

by LOIS LIGHT

CHRISTMAS stockings need not be confined to their traditional place at the foot of the bed. Reproduced from scraps of felt, they can serve for decoration, as favors or gift containers.

Stuffed with a tiny gift from the dime store, they can be hung on the tree for an unexpected child guest. Filled with a miniature candy cane (or nothing, for that matter) they

can become time-honored tree decorations, more treasured with each passing year. If you do use them this way, it's a good idea to pack them with a few moth balls or flakes when you put them away because felt is usually made of wool.

They make amusing favors for the Christmas table, particularly if each one contains a tiny gift suited to each guest—male or female, young

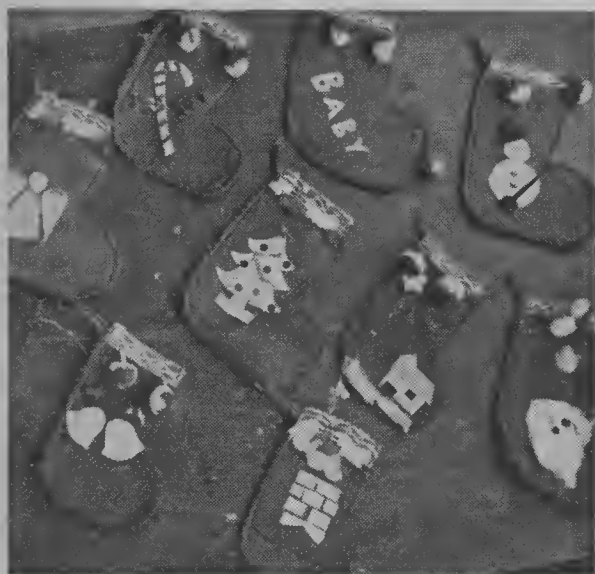
or old. The gift may be anything from a card of bobby pins to a cigarette lighter.

There need be no limit to the stockings' design. Although those shown are traditional ones, you can make them as sophisticated or as whimsical as you desire. Sophisticated ones might include a top hat, a cigarette with cotton-batting smoke or a wine glass with sequin bubbles. Or you might just use the word "Hi" in white felt.

Cut your Christmas stockings from a paper pattern which you

make yourself. Pinking scissors make a good top edge or you can trim the top with lace or ball fringe. However, these should be stitched on securely before the stocking is sewn together. Glue will fasten the design securely.

Use your imagination and anything else you have around—sequins, contrasting felt scraps, pipe cleaners, cotton batting, the colored sparkle which can be obtained at paint stores or most notion counters—and make Christmas stockings a family project.



Miniature stockings of colored felt decoratively trimmed have many uses at Christmas.

A Need

IT can be difficult to choose a gift for the "one who has everything." Surely it is as difficult to select a gift for one who has nothing.

Those who have nothing — at Christmas or any other time of year — are the concern of the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada. Guided by Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova, the Committee makes it possible for you to meet a basic need for clothing.

You can share Christmas with the gift of an easily knit shawl, needed by Greek farm women. The knitting instructions suggest any kind of four-ply wool. Using No. 9 needles, or No. 8 if you knit very tightly, cast on 24 in. and knit 12 in. length. Use a garter stitch and measure 6 stitches per inch for the width (approximately 144 stitches on your needle). Cast off loosely, possibly using larger needles. USC volunteers

will sew five of these strips together into one long piece 24 in. wide by 60 in. long, and then will add fringes. The wool color does not matter as these shawls are dyed black at the distribution center in the Greek mountains. Traditionally, black is the only color that the old women will wear.

Children's cardigan sweaters, pajamas and nightgowns, and bandages are needed for Committee projects in Korea; baby layettes and sewing kits as well as the shawls are needed in Greece.

Good used clothing, clean and mended, which will give at least 6 months wear is urgently needed. Such clothing, like the new articles above, should be sent to the collection center in your province. For the address of your nearest collection depot and any further information on the needs and work of the Committee write to Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, 78 Sparks St., Ottawa 4, Ont.

Rural Rhymes

Houses

*These fine, new, modern houses
Make landscapes come alive,
With every new improvement
That genius can contrive.*

*We struggle to acquire them,
And revel in their grace;
But it takes years of living
To glorify a place.*

*Old houses all have thresholds
The feet of Love have worn.
Their rooms recall the gladness
Of when new life was born.*

*Their walls in silence echo
Our greetings and good-bys.
It takes years to give houses
Such meaning in our eyes.*

—CLARENCE EDWIN FLYNN



Skillful Introductions

No matter what the age group, a friendly introduction makes anyone feel more comfortable in the presence of strangers. As someone said, it's a type of "kindness with style."

First you need to know how to make an introduction, when to make one and, finally, what to do when you yourself are introduced. Here are some easy-to-follow suggestions to help you. First of all, remember to speak clearly and pronounce names distinctly.

How . . .

Introducing Boys to Girls: Present the boy to the girl. Turn to the girl, say her name, then turn to the boy as you speak his name. Example: Sharon, this is Jim Brown—Sharon White.

Introducing Two Boys: Introduce the younger boy to the older one by saying the older boy's name first. If their ages are about the same either name can be voiced first.

Introducing Young People to Older People: Say the name of the older person first. For example: Aunt Mary, this is Jim Brown. Jim, this is my aunt, Mrs. White.

Introducing Your Friends to Your Parents: Simply say "Mother (or Dad) this is Sharon White."

Introducing Your Parents to Other Adults: Miss Edwards, this is my Mother (or Father).

When . . .

When you bring new friends home, introduce them to each member of your family and any other guests who might be there.

When you take a friend to another person's home, introduce your friend to your host or hostess.

When you are out with a friend and meet someone with whom you stop to talk, introduce your friends to one another.

At large parties try to introduce a guest to small groups at a time. This

makes for less confusion. It's also the responsibility of the host or hostess to see that a guest of honor meets each person at the party as soon as possible after their arrival.

Acknowledging Introductions

A man shakes hands when he is introduced to another man. A lady may shake hands or simply smile an acknowledgment of the introduction. The person who is presented to another should be the first to acknowledge the introduction. The most frequently used phrase is "How do you do?" It adds a nice touch to repeat the person's name: "How do you do, Sharon?"

A lady rises when she is introduced to older or quite distinguished men or women, or a clergyman. She does not rise when she is introduced to women within her own age group or to younger men.

A gentleman always rises when he is introduced to a man or woman. Children and young boys and girls should always rise when they are introduced to adults.

Do speak clearly and distinctly when making an introduction. If you don't hear the other person's name, don't be bashful about asking that it be repeated. All you need to do is say "I'm sorry. I didn't hear your name."

These few simple rules help you to show "kindness with style." They remind us of the wise man who pointed out that "life is not so short but that there is always time for courtesy."

Thoughts While Dusting

*This dust is laughing as it sifts
Through caves and cracks and secret
ways,
And settles firmly here and there,
And everywhere its pattern lays.
This dust is laughing as it lifts
In swirls and motes that tease the
sun,
And mockingly retreats, just long
Enough to let me think I've won.*

—BESSIE F. COLLINS

What Farm Organizations Are Doing

NFU SEEKS VOLUNTARY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The National Farmers Union has requested that the Unemployment Insurance Commission extend a voluntary form of unemployment insurance to farm labor. In a brief submitted to the Committee of Enquiry into the Unemployment Insurance Act, the NFU stated that farmers find themselves at more and more of a disadvantage in procuring competent farm help in competition with other industries. It pointed out that increasing skills required in farm production, caused by greater mechanization and technology, made it increasingly impossible for the residual labor force to adequately meet farm labor requirements. For these reasons, unemployment insurance for farm workers was needed to provide the security afforded in other occupations.

The NFU brief stated that the argument against providing for farm workers under the Unemployment Insurance Act, because of the seasonal nature of their employment, was invalid. The Enquiry Committee was reminded that agriculture did not stand alone as an industry requiring seasonal employment. In fact, other industries with seasonal labor were covered.

The NFU admitted that the problems of administration were the greatest obstacle to including farm labor under the Act. However, it felt these could be resolved by establishing a special farm labor division within the Unemployment Insurance Commission which would (a) maintain unemployment insurance books for farm workers, and (b) handle contributions from farm workers and farmers for the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

The NFU suggested further that a farmer wishing to provide insurance to his workers might register with the Commission, and maintain with it a deposit account against which contributions to the fund could be debited periodically.

In conclusion, the brief pointed out that as part of the social legislation in Canada, the Unemployment Insurance Act should not discriminate against any industry or group of workers. For this reason, immediate action should be taken to provide for the needs of agriculture. ✓

OFA REQUESTS FARM MACHINERY LEGISLATION

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, at its annual meeting in Toronto last month, resolved to request the Ontario Government to enact farm machinery legislation, similar in nature to that provided in the three Prairie Provinces. Difficulties many farmers have encountered in getting spare machinery parts, even at main distribution centers, prompted the OFA delegates to make this request.

The OFA meeting also called for these steps to be taken:

- The Ontario Government to participate fully in the ARDA pro-

gram which has been launched by the Federal authorities;

- The enforcement of legislation requiring bills of lading when livestock is transported;

- An increase in the financial security of community livestock sales barns to further protect consignors of livestock;

- Support be given to the further development of producer marketing boards in all provinces, and national marketing boards when desirable;

- Support be given to the development of co-operatives for marketing and processing of farm produce, and for purchasing and manufacturing of supplies used on the farm;

- Greater study to be made of producing agricultural products for known markets by contracts, quotas controlled by farm marketing boards, and production of quality and kind of produce desired by the consumer;

- Support be given to flexible government price supports designed to meet emergencies and to give price stability;

- The Ontario Government to enact legislation which would provide workman's compensation insurance for farmers and workers;

- Powers of expropriation of land be withdrawn from private corporations and left in the hands of elected representatives, such as the provincial cabinet.

Another of the nearly 50 resolutions receiving the attention of the delegates reaffirmed the OFA's support for system of public and private broadcasting, with the overall control clearly in the hands of the CBC.

The meeting re-elected William G. Tilden, Harriston district farmer, to a second term as President of the OFA. A. H. K. Musgrave of Clarksburg and Charles Huffman of Harrow were elected first and second vice-presidents, respectively. ✓

OFU CRITICAL OF FARM MARKETING REPORT

The Ontario Farmers' Union has taken issue with the Agricultural Marketing Enquiry Committee for its recommendation that governments, both Federal and provincial, should not interfere with the trend to fewer and larger farms.

The Committee was appointed in March 1959 by the Ontario Government to enquire into the marketing and distribution of farm products, and the most practical form of producer group action to meet the concentrated buying power of present large-scale food processing and distributing systems.

"What the Committee recommends in effect is that farmers should adjust to this concentration of buying power by getting off their farms," OFU President Mel Tebbutt said. "This, of course, would make it easier for big business to integrate the fewer farmers who would be left on the land."

The Committee equates bigness with efficiency and greater produc-

tivity which it considers desirable, Mr. Tebbutt said. "But," he added, "at the same time, it admits that increased production will not help producers who will have to pass on any benefits to the consumer."

Mr. Tebbutt said the OFU Executive was also amazed by the narrow view of the Committee, which seemed to seek parochial solutions. The OFU does not believe the farm problem is provincial or regional; rather it is national and even international.

Instead of restricting itself to Canada's traditional markets, the Committee should have raised its eyes and looked for new ones, Mr. Tebbutt continued. "Canadian farmers know enough about production," he said. "What we need

is a few economists who know something about distribution." ✓

SFU HAS NEW STAFF MEMBER

The Saskatchewan Farmers Union has announced the appointment of K. E. Higgins to the post of income tax consultant for the organization. Mr. Higgins was born on a farm near Rosetown and received his primary and secondary schooling in the Rosetown district. After serving in the Canadian Army during World War II, he attended and graduated from the School of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. From 1948 to 1951, he was employed in the farm assessing branch of the Saskatchewan Income Tax Office. During the past 6 years he has been with a private company. ✓

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Woman Relieved of Agonizing ITCH

"I nearly itched to death for 7½ years. Then I found a new wonder-working creme. Now I'm happy," writes Mrs. P. Ramsay of L.A. Calif. Here's blessed relief from torture of agonizing itch in women, chafing, hemorrhoids, rash and eczema with an amazing new scientific formula called LANACANE. This fast-acting, stainless medicated creme kills harmful bacteria germs while it soothes raw, irritated and inflamed skin tissue. Stops scratching and so speeds healing. Don't suffer! Get LANACANE at druggists.



BACKACHE? ..not me!



Poetry Contest

In submitting his entry to our poetry contest for Guide readers, D. D. Cliff, of R.R. 2, Westport, Ont., wrote us this letter:

"I have enjoyed your magazine for several years, and have been especially interested in the growing number of poems published. This is encouraging, not only for published poets such as myself, but for all those who are just discovering this fascinating hobby."

Scores of entries already received show you enjoy expressing

your thoughts in verse. In case you have not yet submitted your entry, may we remind you that the contest deadline is December 31, 1961. A cash prize of \$10 and an anthology will be given for the best poem and book prizes for those whose verse places second and third. Verse must, of course, be original.

Address your entry to: Poetry Contest, Home and Family Department, The Country Guide, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 21, Man.

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Select the Carter product you would prefer if you win, fill in the coupon, pin it to your entry and mail to the address shown. Contest closes midnight, December 31, 1961.

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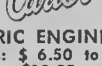

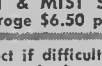
My entry is here enclosed. If I am declared a winner, please send me a free CARTER . . .

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 ELECTRIC ENGINE HEATER Cots: \$ 6.50 to \$ 9.50 Trucks: \$13.95 to \$19.50
 ELECTRIC BATTERY BLANKET \$8.25
 FROST & MIST SHIELDS Average \$6.50 per set

Write direct if difficulty is experienced in purchasing any of the Carter Products (here listed) from your hardware or electrical store.

What's Happening

SHEEP POLICY SPURS INTEREST

Ontario's sheep industry took a spurt forward under a new assistance policy this fall. It's too early to say whether this renewed interest will last, but several new and sizeable flocks were established, and others were increased in size.

Under the program, the Ontario and Canada Departments of Agriculture each paid one-third of the cost of shipping approved western ewes to Ontario farms. Purchasers were expected to take at least 40 ewes each, but most of them ordered groups of 50 to 100 ewes. Sheep specialist Hubert McGill of the Ontario Livestock Branch reports that over 3,000 white-faced range-type ewes, no more than 4 years old, were shipped under the policy. Most of them were purchased in the West by an agent of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers for shipment to Ontario.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture provides additional assistance to the flock owners involved, by purchasing rams and loaning them, free of charge, for a 2-year term. In return, the sheepmen agree to keep records of their enterprise so that, within a couple of years, more accurate information will be available as to just how profitable these sizeable sheep flocks can be.

Most flock owners, who intend to retain their ewe lambs next year for flock expansion, requested rams of the North Country Cheviot or Leicester breeds. Those intending to finish next year's lamb crop for market, asked for Suffolk rams, or in a few cases, Hampshires.

UGG URGE NEGOTIATIONS WITH COMMON MARKET

Delegates to the annual meeting of the United Grain Growers Ltd., held in Calgary last month, urged the Canadian Government to undertake immediate wheat trade negotiations with countries of the European Common Market, and with Britain. Such negotiations should be designed to facilitate admission of wheat of the types produced in Canada into the countries involved, provided the exports of such wheat are neither subsidized nor dumped.

UGG delegates also expressed the wish that these proposed negotiations take precedence over the renewal of the International Wheat Agreement which they felt cannot be satisfactorily dealt with by Canada until this country determines what trade arrangements can be made with Common Market countries. They coupled with these proposals the suggestion that Canada should indicate to other countries a desire to postpone until 1963 the renegotiation of the I.W.A., and a willingness to extend the existing Agreement until July 31 of that year. The current Agreement is due to expire at the end of the current crop year.

In other resolutions, United Grain Growers' delegates requested that:

- Initial payments for grain be set as high as is consistent with main-

taining a reasonable margin of security for the Government of Canada.

- Immediate, substantial increases should be made in the initial payments for wheat, oats and barley.

- Rye and flax be handled by the Canadian Wheat Board on the same basis as other cereal grains.

- The Government of Canada amend the Income Tax regulations so as to raise the depreciation allowance on steel and concrete farm granaries from 2½ to 5 per cent, making it the same as that allowed on wooden granaries.

The Board of Directors reported earnings of \$3,596,814, and total handlings at country elevators of more than 75 million bushels of grain for the 1960-61 crop year. Gratification was expressed that the Company had been able to show such a strong financial position at the year ended July 31, 1961, in view of the serious loss it experienced with the collapse of a 2.5 million bu. terminal annex at Port Arthur in September 1959. This annex has now been replaced by two annexes with a total capacity of 4.25 million bu. As a result the total capacity of the Company's main terminal elevator at the Lakehead has been increased from 6.5 to 8.25 million bu.

CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES SUBJECT OF RESEARCH STUDY

A 5-year research study into basic co-operative principles and their application in present day business is to be undertaken by the Agricultural Economics Department, University of Manitoba, commencing in the New Year. Financing of the \$75,000 research project is being looked after by the Manitoba Co-operative Promotion Board, the co-operative pool elevator associations in the Prairie Provinces, and Federated Co-operatives Ltd. With co-operatives assuming such a major role in the commercial community, it is deemed important that an independent institution study any ambiguities of the co-operative principles that govern day-to-day activities of these organizations.

PFAA REGULATIONS CHANGED

The Federal Cabinet gave approval in November to two amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act regulations. A regulation has been deleted which excluded a complete farm unit from benefits of the Act, if it contained more than 50 acres of irrigated land producing an average yield of more than 12 bu. per acre. The other change involves father-son farm operations. Previously, a son who rented land from a parent was not eligible for a PFAA payment unless he had a written lease executed before May 1 of the year of the award. Under the new amendment, the tenant son is eligible under such circumstances providing his parents do not operate a farm. Purpose of the old clause was to prevent farmers from claiming they had leased land to a son under a verbal lease in order to qualify for two PFAA payments.

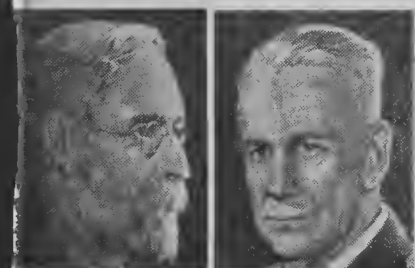
SASKATCHEWAN REPORTS ON 1961 CROP INSURANCE

Saskatchewan's pilot crop insurance program in 1961 offered protection to 194 farmers in 25 insurance areas, mainly located in the east-central and northeast part of the province. A total of \$26,000 was paid in premiums with coverage amounting to \$305,000. Because of widespread crop failure, it was necessary to use a reserve fund established by the Saskatchewan Government, as well as crop insurance premiums, to pay claims. Payments to farmers for crop losses amounted to \$131,000. They ranged from \$56 to \$4,100, with the average payment amounting to \$780.

The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Board is now preparing plans for 1962. It is expected that farmers in eligible areas will be given an opportunity to submit requests for protection at the same premium rates charged in 1961. The premium rates in 1961 varied from a low of 3.5 per cent of coverage to a high of 12 per cent. ✓

HALL OF FAME PORTRAITS UNVEILED

Canada's Agricultural Hall of Fame passed its first milestone last month. Portraits of 14 farmers and farm leaders who played a part in laying the foundations of the farming industry in this country were unveiled at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. The men so honored, all of whom are now



Two portraits from Agricultural Hall of Fame: left, Sir Charles Saunders who developed Marquis spring wheat; right, Alex Mercer, who had devoted his life to the B.C. dairy industry.

deceased, were each nominated for the Hall of Fame by an interested farm organization, and approved by the Executive of the Hall of Fame Association.

The portraits were displayed in the flower show at the Royal Winter Fair this year, but plans are being made to provide a suitable site in the Royal Coliseum where they can be hung permanently.

The men whose portraits are the first to be placed in the Agricultural Hall of Fame are as follows:

Sir Charles E. Saunders, who developed Marquis wheat and other crop varieties.

Hon. John Dryden, an Ontario farmer and provincial minister of agriculture.

Duncan O. Bull, importer and breeder of Jersey cattle.

Alex H. Mercer, who served as director and general manager of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association for 43 years.

P. D. McArthur, Ayrshire breeder and farm leader from Quebec.

Robert McEwen, long-time president of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd. ✓

Hon. J. D. McGregor, Aberdeen-Angus breeder from Manitoba.

T. B. Macaulay, Montreal businessman and Holstein breeder.

Howard Corning, Guernsey breeder and farm leader.

Joseph E. Brethour, pioneer Yorkshire swine breeder.

S. E. Todd, who organized the Council of Canadian Meat Packers and served as its manager.

Robert J. Speers, breeder of Thoroughbred horses and Manitoba cattle rancher.

Robert W. Wade, Ontario government official and livestock promoter.

Frederick W. Stone, in his time the largest breeder and owner of Herefords in North America. ✓

STUDY ON FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE TO MARITIMES

Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton has announced that a 3-man Committee of Enquiry has been appointed to study the question of freight assistance on the movement of western feed grains to the Maritime Provinces.

Specifically, the Committee has been requested: "To enquire into the equity of present rates of assistance on western feed grains to the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, in relation to costs by various methods of transportation, and to make recommendations with respect thereto."

The Committee is to be chaired by E. J. Alton of the National Harbours Board. Other members are E. M. Taylor, retired Deputy Minister of Agriculture for New Brunswick, and G. M. Schuthe of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa. ✓

SASKATCHEWAN POOL MEETING

Highlights of the directors' report to the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool held in Regina last month showed handlings of 165 million bu. of grain in 1960-61, or just over one-half of all grain marketed in the province. This was an increase of nearly 20 million bu. from the previous year.

Net earnings amounted to \$6,371,806. After income tax and an allocation for reserve, a total of \$5,182,300 was available for distribution as patronage dividends on grain and livestock handlings.

During the meeting delegates passed resolutions commending the Federal Government and the Canadian Wheat Board for their energetic promotion of Canadian wheat on world markets. They urged the renewal of the International Wheat Agreement at higher maximum and minimum prices, and requested the Federal Government to take the lead in establishing a World Food Bank. Delegates expressed concern over Government's apparent willingness to tighten trade barriers between Canada and other countries. They looked at the European Common Market and were not unduly frightened by it. They suggested that, in the long run, Canadian farmers might well have more to gain from trade groupings than they have to fear from them. ✓



YOUR MILK CHEQUE

is subject to the buying attitude of the Canadian public.

The June Set-aside was developed as a means whereby you can influence the food purchases of the consumer.

If you are interested in building markets for milk... or even in holding what you presently have, there is no better way than in investing in the June Set-aside.

The more than \$400,000 spent on advertising this year by Dairy Farmers of Canada is *your money*. No matter whether your milk found its way to the market in the form of milk, butter or cheese, or any other dairy food, the market was better than it would have been without the Set-aside.

The Executive Committee of Dairy Farmers of Canada recently made representations to the Canada Department of Agriculture. In so doing they stated that the national organization would join in asking producers in every part of the country to make a greater advertising effort.

To do the kind of job that needs doing requires considerably more funds than are currently made available. Will you help build bigger markets for milk? Bigger markets mean bigger milk cheques.



DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA
147 Davenport Road, Toronto 5

ADVERTISING REPORT—1961

This year Dairy Farmers of Canada advertising will appear in 91 daily and 251 weekly newspapers. Color advertisements have been booked into the three Canadian women's magazines and a campaign has been planned for twenty-five farm papers. In addition twelve trade papers will carry advertisements addressed to parties interested in doing more to promote milk and its products. The Dairy Foods Service Bureau is obtaining a great volume of publicity for dairy foods in magazines, newspapers and on radio and television, making effective use of the new test kitchen.



Hi Folks:

Competition is a mighty good thing. But, like most good things, it can be overdone.

I know of a city family who make a contest out of everything. Nothing is done just for the fun of it. And they'll go to great lengths to make sure they come out on top.

Take learning to skate, for instance. This family wouldn't think of sending their kids down to the community rink to stagger and tumble with the rest. No sir, the youngsters were taken to a pond in the country where they could practice in secret before they ever donned skates in public. You see, they just might be slow to learn and the parents couldn't stand that.

Not long afterwards, the hula-loop craze hit town and the same thing happened. All over the neighborhood, kids were wiggling and squirming. Some had a knack for it, and others didn't. But most everybody had a good time. Not this family; however. Their kids were put through hours of grim practice in the basement before they were even allowed to swing a hoop outside.

When the school announced all younger kids would get a standard I.Q. test, this family really went into high gear. Contacts in the city got them copies of these tests, and the kids went through a whole series of dry runs beforehand.

One of their offspring actually "spilled the beans" the day the real test arrived. As the teacher handed

him the paper he complained, "do I have to do this thing again?"

School sports day was a desperate time for these children too. In spite of strict dieting, one of them was a bit on the heavy side. When he started to fall behind in one of the races the little fellow began to sob wildly: "Wait for me! I've got to win—I've got to win!"

Not long after that, the family had a new baby. This was a signal for an even grimmer contest. As soon as little "Frankie" could walk he was trained to be a bully. This was to ensure outstanding success in later life. The other kids in the family were warned never to fight back, no matter what their little brother did to them. Even other kids were afraid to touch him because the mother would rush to his defense.

Soon the little so-and-so became impossible. If a neighbor stopped to talk to his mother, Frankie would like as not rush at the neighbor suddenly and start trying to shove him around.

"My, he's so aggressive!" the mother would say proudly.

But life has a way of compensating for human folly. A strange moppet moved into the neighborhood who was even bigger for his age than Frankie. This one hadn't been informed that Frankie's person was sacred.

You can guess what happened—kapow! Outraged, Frankie went screaming home to mother. It was several days before he got up enough nerve to come out again.

Sincerely,
PETE WILLIAMS.

FARM MARKETS —This Year and Next

Summary of items from the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Outlook Conference documents. Other commodities are reported on page 11.

Feedgrains Amounts available for 1961-62 crop year, 16.1 million tons estimated, are smallest since 1950-51. Supplies fell 20 per cent from 1960 while livestock increased 5 per cent.

Forage and Feed Supplements Total production of tame hay and fodder corn, estimated at 25.3 million tons in 1961, was slightly better than 1960. But while Ontario farmers had highest hay yields on record, Manitobans had lowest, and Saskatchewan yields were smallest since 1937. Through government programs and cereals cut for fodder, enough roughage has likely been stored to meet needs of Prairies, given normal barn feeding season.

Millfeed supplies (bran, shorts and middlings) will likely be same as in recent years. Soybean oil meal will probably show a slight increase over last year. Packing-house by-products will remain close to last year's tonnage.

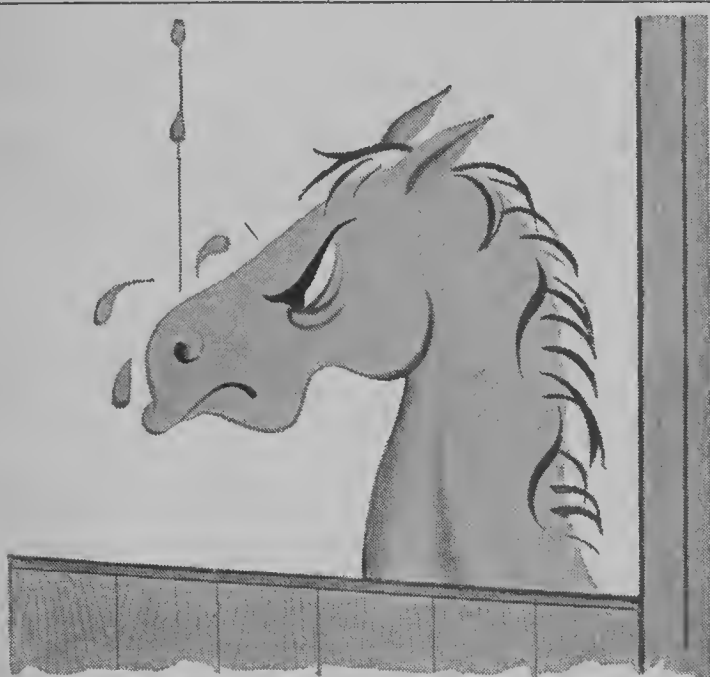
Seed Supplies of registered and certified seed grain will be adequate in 1962. Strong demand for registered wheat and oats expected from U.S.; moderate amounts of wheat but limited oats for export. Grass and some legume seeds cut by drought, but timothy, creeping red fescue, alsike clover, single-cut red clover, and sweet clover available for export. Brome and crested wheat seed probably enough to fill Canadian needs; shortages in most others can be met by imports. Most grass and legume seeds will cost more in 1962 than in 1961.

Other Crops Sugar Beet prices supported at \$13.18 per ton, yielding 250 lb. sugar, in 1961. World prices lower than International Sugar Agreement minimum, and likely to remain low in 1962 unless quotas are enforced. Tobacco, flue-cured crop slightly smaller than record 1960 crop. Demand increasing but there will be a big increase in carryover of old leaf at end of 1962; burley plantings resumed in 1961 and supplies ample. Apples, crop of 1961 slightly up in Canada, considerably up in U.S., compared with last year. But higher prices expected on account of strong European demand. Upward trend in production and consumption of apple products, especially juice and frozen slices, in Canada.

Meat Supplies Inspected slaughter and imports expected to be 2,169 million lb. for year; slightly above 1960.

Dairy Products Cheddar Cheese: Production estimated at 112 million lb. in 1961 (3 million above 1960). Domestic disappearance may total 86 million lb.; down 1.5 million from 1960. Consumption of other types of cheese increased slightly. Ice Cream: Production up slightly from last year on basis of estimated 42 million gallons. Evaporated Whole Milk: Estimated production of 315 million lb. Stocks at October 1 were record 81 million lb. Domestic disappearance expected to be 305 million lb., or 2.5 per cent less than last year. Dry Skimmed Milk: At 200 million lb. for the full year, it will be 20 per cent more than 1960, with stocks of 50 million at October 1. Declining prices were a factor in increasing domestic sales to 140 million lb. Dry Whole Milk: Production estimated at 27 million lb., second only to 1960 output.

Fowl Supplies to processing plants were up slightly in first 6 months compared with 1960, then fell sharply through to October, and close to 1960 level for rest of year. Price fell to 14 cents in October. V



Don't saddle Dobbin with a leaky roof!

Poor horse. His reward for a lifetime of hard work is rain in the face. Why doesn't the boss get the roof fixed? Even a horse knows that leaks left unattended just get worse. If money's the problem, all that's needed is to apply for a Scotiabank Farm Improvement Loan. A Scotiabank Loan is available easily and quickly for repairing buildings, buying new machinery, upgrading livestock, and many other worthwhile projects.

Don't wait to get your farm in the shape you want it. Visit your Bank of Nova Scotia branch manager soon. Find out how a Scotiabank Farm Improvement Loan can help you.

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